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ARTICLE VI.

THE

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

BY WILLIAM WORKMAN, M.D.

OF WORCESTER.

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 21, 1854.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY, —

IF I were required to give "a reason" why I occupy this place to-day, my reply would be, I am here, not voluntarily, or "on instinct," but "upon compulsion." The counsellors have imposed upon me, perhaps rather inconsiderately, the solemn duty of addressing you on this occasion of our time-honored anniversary meeting; and I felt that there was no alternative left me but to attempt to fulfil the duty. I am not insensible to the honor they have conferred in assigning me this duty, but appreciate it most highly; and can now only regret my inability to perform the service required, according to the standard of literary and professional excellence exhibited by my distinguished predecessors.

I propose to speak of the progress of medical science; and beg your indulgence, while I endeavor to illustrate it, by referring to a few of the facts in medi-

cal history, and some of the methods which have been employed in different ages for its promotion and advancement.

The primary object of all science is the discovery of truth. In the march of scientific improvement, medicine has been no laggard, but has kept equal pace in all ages with the other departments of science, even if it have not at times gone in advance of them. Truth is everywhere so mingled with error, and obscured by it, that it often requires much experience and sound judgment to discriminate the one from the other. The discovery of scientific truth has, consequently, been the result only of patient labor, generally taxing the energies of many minds to demonstrate its reality and define its limits. Absolute truth is eternal,—immutable. It is affected by no conditions, and never changes. Relative or conditional truth is more or less affected and varied by circumstances and relations. The animal organism is exposed to so many contingencies, and influenced by so many circumstances and conditions, external and internal, in health and disease, that the latter form of truth must necessarily constitute to a great extent the basis of medical science. Hence there can be no universal theory or absolute law, applicable to all cases, at all times and under all circumstances. Such a law has been earnestly and perseveringly sought by medical men for more than twenty-five hundred years at least, and the history of medicine clearly demonstrates the futility of the pursuit. Medicine, then,—more especially practical medicine,—can not be

classed among the exact or demonstrative sciences. It must be constituted of such general principles as may be philosophically deduced from facts and observation, and can only be successfully applied by the exercise of reason and judgment. There is no sectarianism in true science: it is liberal, charitable, beneficent, always progressive, and always conservative. It knows no such distinctive phrases as "old school" or "new school:" they do not belong to its vocabulary.

In reviewing the history of medicine, one can hardly fail to be struck by the fact, that two prominent methods have been pursued, for the improvement of their science, by medical philosophers of all ages,—the one by speculation, the other by observation. The votaries of the former method have sought to establish their doctrines upon hypothetical bases, by logical subtleties, reasoning upon the nature of things; or by bending facts, so far as they were able, to the support of imaginary theories.

The method of observation, the one which almost universally prevails at present, has had its occasional adherents in ancient as well as modern times; has been adopted by men of a more practical character, of less imagination, but more common sense; men of patience, content to watch carefully the operations of nature, to examine *things* instead of ideas, to record facts and gain knowledge by experience and the sober deductions of reason, rather than seek it by speculating upon fanciful abstractions.

The prevailing tendency of the ancient physicians

was to speculate and theorize, rather than observe; yet there were practical observers in ancient as well as in modern times. HIPPOCRATES, the reputed father of medicine, was eminently a practical man, an attentive and patient observer of nature, and, to a certain extent, a really inductive philosopher. His accurate descriptions of acute diseases, his histories of epidemics, and the atmospheric constitutions of different seasons, have hardly been surpassed by observers of any succeeding age. His writings contain so much that is true to nature, and so much of wisdom, that they have been received with reverence even down to the present time. He had his theories, indeed; but they were always subordinate to the teachings of experience and a sound judgment.

The ancient Grecian philosophy maintained, that all matter is composed of four elements, — fire, air, water, and earth; and medical theories may have generally taken their hue from the current philosophy of the time. On the doctrine of the four elements, therefore, Hippocrates may have founded his doctrine of the “four cardinal humors,” — of “blood, bile, black bile, and phlegm.” Health was supposed to be dependent on the due quantity, quality, and mixture of these elements or humors. Any derangement of this proper balance of the humors, it was supposed, would generate morbid humors in the organism, which were assumed to be the prolific cause of disease. In order to restore health to the system, the process of “*coction*” of the natural humors of the body was supposed to be instituted, by which the morbid ele-

ments were to be separated from the tissues, elaborated into a morbid material, and in this form expelled from the system. The period required for the completion of the "*coction*," and expulsion of the morbid material, was regarded by Hippocrates as critical. Hence the theory of crises, or critical days, which was founded partly on observation, and partly on the above hypothesis of the humors, and contains some truth mixed with some error. Whatever may be the proportion of the one or the other, it is a matter of history that crises in acute diseases have been regarded with more or less favor by the majority of physicians, down to the present age, though they have been explained upon different principles at various times. In his theory of critical days, Hippocrates recognized a great fact, which, though he probably had no distinct perception of its true import, dimly foreshadowed a fundamental truth or principle in nature, which it was reserved for a distinguished Fellow, and former President of this Society, first clearly to define and exhibit to the world, as manifested in the class of "self-limited diseases."

Passing over many distinguished names, and a period of some five centuries, we come to another illustrious individual, GALEN, who created a memorable epoch in the history of medicine. He flourished in the latter part of the second century of the Christian era, and, by his commanding genius and great learning, exercised almost absolute control over the medical opinions of his own and many succeeding ages. Galen adopted the Hippocratic theory of the

four humors constituting the human body; and assumed three attributes or faculties of the soul, as governing the vital functions of the system, which he assigned to different regions of the body. The first he called the vegetative faculty, and supposed it to be seated in the liver, and its office to regulate and govern the "reproductive, augmentative, and nutritive" functions. The second, or irascible, he located in the heart; and the third, or reasonable, in the brain. In addition, he assumed the existence of certain vital spirits, generated in the several organs, whose agency was to execute the commands of the soul, in regulating the functions of the body in health, and restoring it when diseased. In his pathology, Galen assumes agencies and entities quite as hypothetical and absurd as those he attributes to the soul, in carrying on the natural functions of the body. Among his voluminous speculations, Galen is said to have written much of practical value, the result of observation and experience. He was a disciple of the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, thoroughly versed in all the metaphysical subtleties of his age; a most skilful dialectician, believing that principles were only to be deduced from a contemplation of the nature of things, and not from observing the things themselves, and the principles thus discovered: "dialectics should suffice to determine their application." Galen is said to have written more than three hundred volumes; and by his vast learning, the acuteness of his logic and the power of his eloquence, he was able to overwhelm all adversaries, and to hold the medical opinions of the world

in complete subjection to his dogmas for a period of more than fourteen centuries.

Medicine was cultivated and much was written by the Arabian and Egyptian physicians, men of great learning; and also by the Grecians and Romans, for several centuries after the death of Galen; but all adopted the doctrines of their great master, and but little substantial improvement was made.

Then followed the long, dreary period of the dark ages, and the "chaotic confusion consequent upon the barbaric invasions," during which, whatever of learning and science was left on earth, was shut up in the cloisters of monks; and the practice of medicine, as of other liberal professions, fell into the hands of ecclesiastics; and "priests, abbots, and bishops officiated as physicians to kings and popes."

From the ninth to the fourteenth century, the church assumed the responsibility of regulating all things, — the practice of medicine among others. Medical education was neglected; some of the female religious orders were introduced as medical practitioners; the qualifications for the practice of physic became reduced to the lowest standard; and, in this state of things, "crowds of low, ignorant persons, barbers, bathmen, and women, assumed the titles of curers of disease."* A most extraordinary parallel this, to a large class of practitioners in the middle of the nineteenth century!

The revival of education was commenced in the

* *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, for April, 1847, p. 399; from Renouard's *History of Medicine*.

thirteenth century, when the ecclesiastical schools of the cathedrals were erected into universities by the popes, in which medicine and law, as well as theology, were taught; all, however, under the strict surveillance of the ecclesiastical power.

These institutions wrought no notable results for medical science until after the commencement of the fourteenth century, when an extraordinary individual appeared upon the stage, at Montpellier in France, in the person of GUY DE CHAULIAC, who distinguished himself by his devotion to observation, by his writings, by urging the importance of dissections, and by introducing many improvements in surgery; operating for cataract and for the radical cure of hernia, and performing many other minor operations. Malgaigne quotes from him a most noble and beautiful description of the qualifications of a surgeon, which is worthy of all praise and imitation, even in this enlightened age. A surgeon, he says, "should be well read, expert, ingenious, and very moriginous," that is, "bold in sure things, careful in danger; he should avoid bad cures and practices; he should be kind to his patients, indulgent to his colleagues, and wise in his predictions; he should be chaste, sober, compassionate, and merciful, not greedy or extortionate for money; receiving a moderate recompense, according to his labors, his dignity, the circumstances of the patient, and the nature of the issue or event."

The study of medicine was revived and pursued more vigorously during the fourteenth and fifteenth

centuries; but the bigotry of the people, as well as the prohibitions of the papal power, prevented human dissections: anatomy and physiology, therefore, the only foundation of true medical science, still remained a sealed book. The minds of the profession were bound, as in chains, by the dogmatism of the ancients; and little progress could be made in the actual condition either of the science or the practice of medicine. Indeed, we are told that no one dared to "admit any thing contrary to the authority of Galen," on pain of being considered a perverter of the laws of nature, and an enemy to legitimate authority. A growing conviction of the importance of anatomical knowledge was felt for a long period; but the desire could only be satisfied by the inspection of the bodies of monkeys and other animals, which was practised in the schools of Italy and at Paris.

In England, the first medical professorships were founded at Oxford and Cambridge by *Thomas Linacre*, a man of great learning and energy, who had visited the Italian schools, and enjoyed the benefit of instruction in all their ancient literature. In 1518 he laid the foundation of the College of Physicians in London, the first institution in that country for the examination of candidates for the practice of physic.

The ancient authority maintained its sway over the medical opinions of the profession until near the middle of the sixteenth century, when *Vesalius*, a man of true courage and surpassing genius, appeared upon the stage, "and, stealing his first subject from the gibbet itself," prosecuted the study of practical ana-

tomy with great enthusiasm and success; and, in the year 1543, published his celebrated work on the structure of the human body. At the same time he attacked the ancient theories, exposing their errors, and, with the aid of other cotemporaries, succeeded in "laying the foundation of *Modern Anatomy*."

About the same period, Ambrose Paré, in France, was driven by the force of circumstances, during a military campaign, being deprived of the usual supply of oil, to substitute the ligature of arteries for the suppression of hemorrhage, instead of cauterization with boiling oil, the common practice of that time.

These brilliant discoveries served to shake the confidence of physicians in the supremacy of the scholastic philosophy of the ancients, and gave a new direction to the inquiries of other independent observers, who were to follow. The before *terra incognita* of the human body had been partially explored, knowledge had been increased, and the foundation of a truer science had been laid. Observations began to be made in other branches of science, a multitude of new facts were discovered, which did not tally with the doctrines of the schools, and a new epoch was evidently about to dawn on all the sciences.

The leading physicians were, at this period, devoting themselves to the examination of the structure of the human body; among whom were Servetus, Columbus, and Cæsalpinus; who all examined the heart, discovered the cardiac valves, and seemed to have conceived a correct idea of their uses. It now appears marvellous, that, having gone thus far, they

had not proceeded further, and discovered the circulation of the blood. But such is the influence of theory, that it often blinds the minds of otherwise sagacious men to the most obvious deductions of reason.

Servetus imagined that only the more subtle material of the blood was conveyed through the lungs from the right to the left ventricle, which in its transit being changed by agitation and contact with the air, — having parted with its fuliginous vapors, — became vital spirits, and was attracted by the diastole of the left ventricle, and flowed out through the arteries, according to the theory of Galen.

Columbus (Realdus) labored under the same delusion; for although he had examined carefully the structure and understood the uses of the tricuspid and mitral valves, and of the sigmoid valves, and saw that the blood, once having entered the ventricles or the arteries, could not go backward, yet he seems never to have conceived any true idea of the circulation, but, like Galen, continued "to regard the liver as the origin of all the veins," and to suppose the nutritive circulation to be carried on by a flux and reflux of the blood in these vessels to and from all parts of the system.*

The time had not yet arrived for the entire liberation of even the most sagacious minds from ancient authority; and the theory of sanguification in the liver only, and the supposition that the veins and right

* *Vide Willis's Life of Harvey*, published by the Sydenham Society.

cavities of the heart contained and circulated blood, while the arteries circulated only attenuated vital spirits, of which the left ventricle was the great reservoir, still clouded the mental vision of the wisest of the profession.

The progress of medical, as well as of all science, was nearly arrested during the latter half of the sixteenth century. It was a period when mysticism, eccentricities, and vagaries of the strangest kind, prevailed; and knowledge was not increased. But, says Renouard, "errors of science, superstitious prejudices, religious exaltation, and the thirst for riches, concurred at the same period to propagate the follies of the cabal; and never were there seen such numbers of sorcerers, possessed, astrologers, and alchemists; never were prophecies, visions, and prodigies of all kinds, so common."* Among the alchemists, Paracelsus stood pre-eminent, and did good service, if in nothing else, in battling down the errors and absurdities of the ancient dogmatism of the schools.

An important revolution in medical doctrines was introduced, in the beginning of the seventeenth century, by Van Helmont, who is represented as a bold innovator and reformer, learned and eloquent in disputation, a believer in alchemy and mysticism, and a practical chemist. He successfully attacked the ancient medical philosophy, and prostrated false systems, only to erect upon their ruins others equally false. Under the name of "Archeus, or sentient soul," he assumes

* As quoted and translated in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, No. 108, p. 408.

the existence of a power in the animal economy, residing in the mucous membrane of the stomach and in the spleen; also another subordinate power, by the title of "Blass," the regulator of the voluntary movements; and certain other ferments, all under the control of the *Archeus*. All disease was supposed to originate in the mucous membrane of the stomach, and the symptoms, to represent the intelligent efforts of the *Archeus* to restore order and harmony in the economy of the system, when it had been deranged by the operation of injurious agencies. The business of the physician was, then, to consult the pleasure of the *Archeus*, and prescribe such remedies only as he should find to be agreeable to this presiding divinity, "not neglecting magical words, charms, and amulets." "Van Helmont," says Renouard, "founded no sect; but several sects borrowed from his ideas. The chemical school owes to him the idea of ferments, and from him the animists and vitalists derived that of the vital principle."

But a new epoch in the history of medicine had now opened its light upon the world. The inductive method of Bacon and Newton and Locke had shaken the confidence of medical philosophers in the dialectic discussions and abstract theories of the schools, and turned their attention to the observation of nature. This change in the philosophy of the time opened the way to the discovery of the circulation of the blood, which was the foundation of a new and truer physiology; and although its scope was not to be fully realized for ages, yet it was destined gradually to

expand, by repeated accessions, into a consistent and beautiful system of vital philosophy.

William Harvey first announced his great discovery of the circulation of the blood by the action of the heart, at the College of Physicians in London in 1615, but did not publish it to the world till 1628. Harvey's discovery of the circulation was the result of inductive reasoning, and not of entire demonstration; as he never traced the complete course of the blood through the capillary system. The facts on which he founded his discovery had been known to others for a long period. Columbus and Cæsalpinus had examined and described the valves of the heart, and the valves at the entrance of the aorta and pulmonary artery, and conjectured their uses. Fabricius ab Aquapendente, his anatomical teacher at Padua, had observed the valves of the veins, and directed the attention of Harvey to them. "Yet did no one," says Willis, "mastering these facts in their connection and sequence, rising superior to prejudice, groundless hypothesis, and erroneous reasoning, draw the inference that now meets the world as irresistible, until the combining mind of Harvey gave it shape and utterance."*

As a striking illustration of the subjection of the minds of the men of that age to scholastic authority, and their reluctance to yield theory to observation, we are assured by the historian, that more than twenty years elapsed before Harvey's views were admitted beyond the Alps, — and then only when the

* *Vide* Life of Harvey (Sydenham Society's Pub.), p. 66.

good Plempius of Louvain, a distinguished but vehement opponent of the doctrine, undertook to examine the matter for the purpose of refuting it, by which he became fully convinced of its truth, and publicly acknowledged his conviction. The discovery of the circulation produced a radical revolution in the doctrines of physiology. The microscope, which had been some time in use, aided materially in further demonstration of the new discovery. By the aid of this instrument, Malpighi of Bologna traced the globules of the blood in their transit through the capillary vessels from the arteries to the veins, and thus proved to the senses what was only a matter of inference with Harvey.

The thoracic duct was first discovered by Pecquet in 1647; and he demonstrated that the lacteals terminated in this duct, and not in the liver, as supposed by Galen; a fact at once fatal to the ancient hypothesis, which ascribed the function of hæmatisation exclusively to the liver. In 1661, Malpighi, by aid of the microscope, discovered the cellular tissue of the lungs; and the lymphatics were described about the same period by Bartholin and others.

Among the independent observers who succeeded Harvey, and contributed largely to the progress of medicine, Sydenham stood pre-eminent. He utterly disclaimed all allegiance to theories either past or present, and relied on observation and induction as the only means of acquiring a correct knowledge of his art. "In writing the history of disease," he says, "every philosophical hypothesis whatsoever, that has

previously occupied the mind of the author, should be in abeyance. This being done, the clear and natural phenomena of the disease should be noted,—these, and these only. They should be noted accurately, and in all their minuteness.”* He justly viewed this as the only method through which the natural indications of cure were to be derived. And by this method of closely scrutinizing the operations of nature, after the manner of Hippocrates, and carefully watching the effects of remedies, he introduced many essential improvements into the practice of his time. In small-pox, for example, it was deemed necessary to shut up patients in close, heated apartments; and the common treatment was, first to bleed, then to stimulate, and finally to sweat them, wrapped in “scarlet cloth.” Sydenham, wisely, and much in advance of the knowledge of his age, repudiated this plan of treatment for smallpox, and other acute diseases, and introduced the cooling regimen and medication, with free ventilation, and allowed “nature to do her own work, requiring nothing of the physician but to regulate her when she is exorbitant, and to fortify her when she is too weak.” He was a believer in the humoral pathology, but permitted no theory to warp his judgment, or divert his attention from facts. His observations upon epidemic diseases, and the epidemic constitutions of the atmosphere peculiar to different seasons, were not only original, but bear in them the stamp of truth, have been confirmed by subsequent observers, and are none the less worthy

* Latham’s Translation of Sydenham’s Works, p. 14.

of consideration now for having been recorded two centuries ago.

The knowledge of anatomy and physiology, though greatly improved, was yet deficient in many important particulars, and especially in regard to the nervous system. Tendons, ligaments, and nerves were confounded under the general name of nerves. Even as late as the seventeenth century, all the vital movements were supposed by Baglivi to be "derived from the heart and dura mater."

The ancient hypothesis, that sensation was the result of a peculiar elementary affinity between external objects and the organs of the senses, still maintained its influence. The luminous particles of bodies were supposed to be attracted toward the eye, because that organ was of a resplendent nature; and the ear in like manner, being of an airy nature, was believed to attract the sonorous molecules.

The existence of some primary or inherent power, to guide and control the various functions of the living system, has been acknowledged as a necessity by philosophers and physiologists of all ages. This power has been recognized under various names, as nature, spirit, archæus, soul, &c. The functions of the economy have at one time been ascribed to the operation of the archæus, as the ruling power. They have been supposed to result from chemical action and reaction of the elements, and the fermentation of the humors of the body; and they have been explained as dependent on the laws of mechanics.

The chemical pathology was introduced by Sylvius,

an eloquent professor at Leyden, a chemist and eminent anatomist, who based his exposition of the functions of the animal economy exclusively upon the laws of chemistry; adopting the ferments of Van Helmont, and attributing all diseases to the vitiated and acrimonious condition of the fluids of the system. The theories of Sylvius were popular for a time, and quite extensively adopted, not only on the continent, but in England.

The fertility of the imagination was unbounded during this age, and medical theories rose and fell with every prominent champion that appeared in the ranks of the profession. Another sect of medical philosophers invoked the aid of mechanics as the foundation of true physiological and pathological principles, and attempted to support their hypotheses by anatomical facts, hydraulic calculations, and microscopic observations, which, "by their apparent mathematical exactitude and simplicity," together with the ability by which they were enforced, rendered them generally acceptable to the profession. Sanctorius of Padua, and Borelli of Pisa, were the prominent founders of this mechanical sect. Borelli was an accomplished anatomist; and, notwithstanding his visionary physiological theories, added many new facts to the then existing stock of anatomical knowledge, and corrected some false notions before entertained, especially in regard to the amount of muscular power required to perform locomotion and overcome any other resistance, and the principle of its application.

Baglivi, at Rome, was a disciple of the mechanical

school, and attempted to found a pathology on the hypothesis that two conditions only of the *solids* exist in disease, viz.: too great tension or constriction, and too great softness or relaxation; rejecting all ideas of the humoral pathology. Later in life, he repudiated his own theory, and relied in his practice on the Hippocratic method of observation.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, Boerhaave published at Leyden his great work, "The Institutes of Medicine." He professed to be an *eclectic*, and attempted to establish a universal system of pathology, by combining the anatomical, chemical, and mechanical theories; advanced the hypothetical doctrine of lentor of the blood, and "error loci," or misplacement of the globules in the capillaries, causing stasis of the denser parts of the blood in those vessels and constriction of the same, as the prolific cause of disease. His views were sustained and enforced by commanding genius, and great learning and subtlety of speculation; but they had so little foundation in truth, that they hardly survived beyond the lifetime of their author.

Another hypothesis prevailed in Germany about the same period, of which Stahl was the author, founded on the supposed "*Anima*, or immaterial soul," as the controlling genius of the functions in health and disease; and a similar dogma of *vitalism*, in France, of which Barthez, of Montpellier, was the champion: but these were little more than modifications, perhaps improvements, of the Archæus of Van Helmont.

It is only about a century since physiology had any valid claim to be considered a distinct science. Up to this period, it had been based chiefly on mere assumptions, figments of the imagination, instead of ascertained facts. In 1747, Haller, by experimental researches upon living animals, succeeded in establishing the fact of the irritability of the living tissues, which had been advanced only as an hypothesis by Glisson some years before, and clearly demonstrated the distinction between this vital force and "the mere contractility of tissue," showing that the laws of vital action are entirely distinct from those of chemical and physical forces. Haller had successfully proved the principle of irritability to exist in the muscular fibres. Bichat followed up the subject by indefatigable labor, until he completed the theory, proving it to extend to the function of every tissue.

While the physiologists were thus employed in investigating the existence of the vital forces inherent in the organs, and the laws of their operation, a more practical direction was given to the labors of medical philosophers in other departments of the science; and morbid anatomy began to be studied early in the eighteenth century. Numerous observations were made and published by Bartholin, Tulpius, Ruysch, and others; and, in 1760, Morgagni published at Venice his celebrated work on the "Seats and Causes of Diseases," containing an immense collection of dissections of diseased bodies systematically arranged according to the organs affected. The observations

and facts recorded by Morgagni are none the less valuable, in the view of sensible men, for being nearly a century old. "The sciences are formed by successive additions; and the same men cannot lay their foundations, and conduct them to perfection." This was the remark of a sensible man more than four hundred years ago.* But the impatience of the human intellect impels some men to seek knowledge in speculations beyond the known or the possible, rather than labor, in the humbler sphere of observation, to learn the qualities and conditions of things, before they attempt to determine their laws.

The Royal Academy of Surgery was founded in Paris in 1731, which greatly improved the character of surgery in France. This institution, under the old regime, published its last volume of *Memoirs* in 1774. In England, John Hunter commenced his celebrated course of lectures on the principles of surgery, in the following year. He was an original genius, a most indefatigable student of nature, and had little reverence, either for theory, authority, or antiquity. He accumulated a vast amount of anatomical facts and observations, cultivated comparative anatomy, and, by original experiments, contributed much to the improvement of physiology. He demonstrated, to a certain extent, the vitality of the blood, defined the different varieties and processes of inflammation, first explained the nature of adhesive inflammation, taught union by the first intention or without inflammation, established the distinction between this and suppura-

* Guy de Chauliac.

tive inflammation, and the more complicated processes of cicatrization. He also introduced many scientific improvements in practical surgery, especially in the treatment of gunshot wounds, and in various surgical diseases, which were not before well understood. Malaigne remarks, that "surgery, as the middle ages had left it, was little else than a handicraft; A. Paré and J. L. Petit made an art of it; and John Hunter constituted that art into a science."

During the last century, the domain of human anatomy was quite thoroughly explored, and considerable progress was made towards a more correct physiology; surgery was greatly improved in its principles and practice, and a vast amount of clinical observations on practical medicine accumulated; the authority of ancient theories and the dogmatism of the schools had nearly faded away before the light of a purer science and a more liberal exposition of truth; yet the predominant idea, which had been for so many ages vainly pursued, of a universal theory, by which all diseases, with their protean forms and phases, might be reduced to a single pathological standard, still held possession of the minds of many of the leading men of the profession.

Near the close of the last century, the celebrated system of nosology and medical theory and practice of Cullen was published, and received with universal favor by the profession. This, for a quarter of a century, maintained a controlling influence over the principles and practice of medicine. Cullen considered the brain as the centre and source of all motive-

power in the system; and assumed that the various functions and movements of the living system are but modifications of the *energy* of the brain; that this *energy* is continually liable to, and is actually suffering, alternate excitement and collapse; and, according to his theory, diseases are the result of a collapse or declension of the cerebral *energy*, produced by the application of certain deleterious forces, — contagions, miasms, cold, fear, &c., — which act as remote causes of disease. This declension of the cerebral *energy*, most prominently exhibited in fevers and other acute diseases, pervades the whole system, causing universal debility, but chiefly affecting the extreme vessels, throwing them into a state of spasm; and in this, the cold stage was supposed to consist. During the successive stages, of fever, for example, the debility and consequent spasm of the capillaries continue, and operate as an indirect stimulus to the heart and larger arteries, whose action is thereby increased and maintained till the *energy* of the brain is restored, and its regenerated power extended to the extreme vessels, which removes the spasm and restores their normal action; and the final result of the series is relaxation of the excretory vessels of the skin, and the flow of perspiration. Cullen was a man of great learning, a most eloquent lecturer and able writer, and fortified his theory by such an apparent array of facts and plausible arguments as to secure its general adoption by the profession. His therapeutics were generally judicious, and founded more upon the observation of the phenomena of disease and the indi-

cations of experience, than upon the validity of his pathology.

Cullen was a benefactor to medical science, and did much to aid its progress and improve its practice; but his splendid theories were destined soon to fall before the light of a more accurate and extended observation; and they have long since gone, with their predecessors, to the tomb of the Capulets.

About the same period, the prophylactic power of vaccination against that most loathsome scourge of the human race, smallpox, was discovered by Dr. Jenner. This most beneficent of all discoveries was not the result of any hypothesis or theory, but of observation and induction from facts, — facts too familiarly known to require repetition. Putting two facts together, he logically deduced a third, the truth of which he proved by repeated experiments, continued through many years, before he promulgated it to the world. The name of Jenner stands among the most illustrious of the benefactors of mankind.

Early in the present century, another distinguished medical reformer appeared in France, in the person of *Broussais*. He was led, by a conviction, as he says, of the “imperfect and erroneous notions of disease which were then prevalent,” and by the failure of the nosologists to give any satisfactory explanations of chronic diseases, to adopt a better method of arriving at truth; which was by a course of observation of all the facts that actually occurred in disease during life, and all revealed in the tissues after death. In 1804, he published his first work on the chronic

phlegmasia; and, some twelve years later, his great work, in four volumes, on acute diseases. Broussais' observations, aided by his imagination, led him to the conclusion, that "no disease is ever primarily and essentially general," but that "disease begins always in one individual organ," whether it is produced by a cause which vitiates the fluids and humors of the body, or the solids; therefore "all diseases ought to be regarded, primarily, as local affections." And Broussais discovered, or thought he discovered, the comprehensive fact, that all diseases, of whatever nature, have their primary seat in the mucous membrane of the stomach. Hence, according to his system, all manifestations of disease, whether acute or chronic, are simply symptomatic of "Gastritis;" or from the fact that the primary phlegmasia generally involves the intestinal mucous membrane, "Gastro-enteritis."

The theory of Broussais, under the specious name of the "physiological system," was promulgated with great exultation by its author, as the perfection of medical science. The simplicity of its pathology and therapeutic indications, and the dogmatic assurance with which it was maintained by its advocates, rendered it quite attractive, and gave it currency for a time. It was enthusiastically received by the profession in France, and in the Middle and Southern States of our own country, but was not extensively adopted in the Northern States. In England and the north of Europe, it scarcely gained a foothold. In therapeutics, the followers of this system rejected the use of all active and disturbing medicines, and relied on free

general and local depletions, fomentations, starvation, and the internal use of gum-water and ice. The author himself thus sums up his treatment of disease: "In short," he says, "our treatment is comprehended in three things, viz., local bleeding, external warmth, and frictions of the surface; and, lastly, patience." The great error of Broussais' system consisted in his magnifying an occasional pathological condition into a universal fact; and, when this mistake was exposed by the more rigorous and accurate observations of Louis, in his works on Phthisis and Typhoid Fever, the "physiological system" was at once overthrown and demolished; and now there is "none so poor as to do it reverence."

Only confused and speculative notions were entertained of the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system, until within the present century. And it is since 1820 that Sir Charles Bell promulgated his great discovery of the distinct and separate origin of the sensory and motor-nerves; the one arising from the posterior fasciculus of the medulla oblongata and spinal marrow, and the other from the anterior fasciculus of the same parts; and, as he supposed, another system, the respiratory, arising from the middle column of the medulla oblongata and cervical spinal marrow. Sir Charles was led to these important discoveries by a long series of ingenious experiments upon living animals, and not by any preconceived theory.

More recently, Dr. Marshall Hall has, by various observations, discovered the reflex action of the nervous system, by means of which impressions are trans-

mitted from the extremities of the sensory, through the medium of the brain and spinal marrow, to the extremities of the motor-nerves, and there excite various involuntary muscular movements, which he calls the excito-motory friction. Though the views of these two distinguished individuals have not been fully acknowledged by all physiologists in all their particulars, yet their observations have thrown great light upon the functions of this complicated system. Much, however, remains yet to be learned before a perfect knowledge of the nervous system has been achieved.

The publication in 1819 of the great work of Laennec on Auscultation introduced a new and more exact method of diagnosis in pulmonary and cardiac diseases, both acute and chronic; and greatly improved the treatment of those diseases, by enabling practitioners to make more accurate distinctions of the different forms of the diseases of those organs.

A similar improvement in the diagnosis of cerebral diseases was effected by the labors of Rostan, Lallemand, and Foville, about the same period, who more accurately marked out the distinction between apoplexy, ramollissement, and encephalitis, and the paralysis of the insane, which were confounded under the general name, encephalitis, by the Broussaisan school.*

Since the demolition of the "physiological system" of Broussais, about twenty-five years ago, no notable

* *Vide* Medico-Chirurgical Review, April, 1849, p. 548; as quoted from L'Union Medicale.

attempt has been made, in the legitimate profession, to construct a general medical theory, under the Utopian idea that all diseases may be reduced to a single pathological, or treated upon a single therapeutic principle. The phantom, theory, which has for hundreds and thousands of years dazzled and tantalized so many of the medical profession, only to lead them astray, has at length vanished. A clearer and more substantial vision has now opened to the view of medical men of the present age. The votaries of our science have learned to labor and accumulate, instead of dreaming to speculate; and, when they philosophize, to reason from facts, and not from hypothesis; facts, not fancied, but proved; facts, not partially noticed and imperfectly recorded by incompetent observers, but such only as have been rigorously observed, tested, and verified by numerous laborers in the same field. And never before has medical science progressed with such rapidity as during the last quarter of a century, by the method of rigorous observation and induction. New facts are continually accumulated by earnest laborers; old ones are corrected, confirmed, or disproved; and new relations or analogies detected, and important distinctions discovered which had not before been recognized. The progress of medical science has been greatly aided by the extensive researches in natural history and comparative anatomy of the present day, while human anatomy has been nearly, if not quite, exhausted, so far as it can be demonstrated by the dissecting-knife; and, when this fails, the microscope takes it up, and

discloses to the astonished vision the ultimate molecules, or vesicular constituents of all the tissues.

Physiology has been revolutionized in the last twenty-five years. The revelations of the microscope, and the developments of animal chemistry, have nearly transformed it into a new science.

The same instrumentalities have brought to light an immense number of facts in morbid anatomy. The molecular changes wrought in the tissues by various organic diseases, before unknown, have been satisfactorily determined by the microscope; and their mode of development, once involved in mystery, has been clearly explained. Important changes in the fluids have also been revealed by the aid of animal chemistry.

These improvements in the elements of our science have been accompanied, *pari passu*, by improvements in its practical application. By extensive clinical observations, and the other means already enumerated, greater accuracy of diagnosis has been attained; the distinction between functional and organic diseases, between the curable and incurable, has been, and is, more accurately defined; consequently, painful and unavailing surgical operations, once resorted to, are now abandoned; and the sick are spared much useless, or worse than useless, medication. The recuperative powers of nature are better understood; consequently they are less frequently thwarted by officious interference than formerly. A knowledge of the errors of the past has proved a valuable auxiliary to the progress of truth in the present age. Let me

not be misunderstood. I would not represent the medical literature of the past as all error — far from it. The records of medicine, both ancient and modern, are largely imbued with truth, and contain much that is worthy the consideration and study of every physician. But error is everywhere prevalent, and often so mingled with truth as to render it most difficult to separate and distinguish the one from the other. And so often is this difficulty experienced by physicians, that they are proverbially distrustful and cautious of receiving new facts or principles as truth, until they have been tested by repeated observation, and their value established by reason and experience.

For many years of the present century, the attention of medical men has been specially directed to the study of Hygiene; which has resulted in the accumulation of a vast amount of facts relating to the physical, mental, and moral condition of the masses of the people, especially of the poor, in large cities and towns; and led to the enactment of sanitary laws, of greater or less efficiency, for the preservation of the public health, protecting all classes from the incursions and diffusion of epidemic diseases. Improvements in ventilation, in the construction of houses for the poor in large cities, in reducing the hours of labor for operatives in manufactories, in diet, exercise, in the habits of cleanliness and temperance, and all things conducive to health and morality, have been mainly effected by the beneficent operation of the principles of medical science and the active agency of medical men. In other branches of science, chemis-

try and natural history, including geology, zoology, botany, &c., medical men, the world over, have been among the most active and successful laborers. The Massachusetts Medical Society, let me say, has the distinction of bearing on its rolls the names of many gentlemen engaged in large practice, who have, nevertheless, made most valuable contributions to these several branches of science. My limits do not allow me to go into further details on these subjects. But from the foregoing brief historical sketches of medical theories, and statements of facts, I have endeavored to show that medical science has been, and *is, progressive*; that its progress has been effected, not by speculation and theory, but by observation and experience, and their logical results,—philosophical induction. The improvement of the science has given the profession a greater control over diseases from age to age, and added to the comfort and happiness, as well as increased the duration, of human life.

So far as the records of mortality have been preserved in several European countries and our own, vital statistics show clearly that the duration of life has gradually increased during the last century. I have no time to go into details on the subject; but a single extraordinary case may be named, which goes to confirm the above statement for a much longer period. In the ancient city of Geneva, the only city in the world probably where tables of mortality have been kept almost uninterruptedly for nearly three centuries (from 1560 to 1845), the value of life has more than doubled during that period. In the last half of

the sixteenth century, 18 years only was the average duration of life. In the seventeenth century, it was 22 years. In the first half of the eighteenth century, it averaged 31.8 years; and in the latter half, 33.1 years. In the first fourteen years of the nineteenth century, it was 38 years; and from 1838 to 1845, it was 41.7 years.*

It has not been my object, as you will readily perceive, in this desultory sketch of some few only of the most prominent medical theories and discoveries of the last twenty-five hundred years, to write a connected history of medicine. This would require many volumes for its full elucidation. I have simply designed to exhibit the fallacy of abstract speculation in medical matters, and of all theories based upon it; to show, in short, the utter worthlessness of such theories, or that they have contributed *little, if any thing*, to the progress of true science. Progress in medical as in other sciences has been achieved by observation of nature and the accumulation of well-attested facts, from which alone true principles of science can be deduced.

The legitimate medical profession of the present age have little respect for theory. The science of medicine is now based exclusively upon rigorous observation and induction; and never before did it stand upon so firm a basis, or embrace so much of truth, or promise so much toward the prevention, mitigation, or removal of disease, as at the present time. And

* Dr. Marc D'Espine. Translated from *Annales de Hygiène*, for *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, January, 1848, p. 281.

yet now, in the middle of the nineteenth century, with the multitude of hypothetical systems of medical doctrines which have been received for a brief period, and then repudiated as worthless, before us, and in the face of all the experience of more than two thousand years, and of all common sense, we have medical sects among us propagating dogmas founded upon baseless assumptions, without facts, and without any rational experience to sustain them; and, what is more extraordinary, these absurdities are received as truth, and paid for, by multitudes of the people, — not the ignorant and superstitious only, but by many people of intelligence, who move in the higher walks of society; while the regular profession, the only true exponent of medical science, is scouted by the same individuals as antiquated and obsolete.

Allow me, Mr. President, to relate an incident which occurred some nine or ten years since, while I was stopping, for a day or two, at a village-hotel upon the Hudson River, in the State of New York. I found there a pseudo-doctor, — “a great swell,” — and I soon learned that the good people of the village, and all the region round, had been notified by a vaunting handbill of the advent of the renowned Doctor Bamboozle, from the city of New York, who could cure all the sick, and would lecture on medical subjects to those who were not sick, and communicate to them very important information. I happened accidentally and unobserved to hear a dialogue between the doctor and his first patron, a female, quite illiterate but shrewd. The doctor began to interrogate; but she

declined to answer, saying, "If you know what you pretend, and can cure me, you can tell what ails me." "O, yes," quoth the doctor, "I can tell you all about it, and cure you, too. I don't wish you to say a word." After a pretty extensive manipulation of her person, every now and then popping a question as to her sensations, the doctor, with infinite pomp, exclaims, "I have it! I see what ails you! *your mucous membranes are affected!*" "No, doctor, that's not my complaint." The doctor renewed his examination; said he had found a new symptom, and varied his diagnosis, assigning the disease to another organ. "No, doctor, that's not my case, nor nothing like it." "But, I must be right, and no mistake," said the doctor. "I have no such complaint," said the patient, "and you don't know what ails me." "Why, you must know, my good woman, that I have a *system*, — a *new system* of my own! I don't practise according to any of your *old-school* doctrines! I go by *my system!* *my system* is *infallible!* *by it there can be no mistake!* and, according to *my system*, I have told you your case exactly." The patient, however, continued inexorable to the doctor's logic, and taunted him for his lack of skill, until he was glad to retreat, covering his reputation only by the asseveration, "If I have mistaken your case, it must be because it is one that *don't belong to my system.*"

And now, pray tell me on what better foundations do the dogmas of the pretended "new-school" medical reformers of the middle of the nineteenth century rest, than the "*infallible system*" of this New York

mountebank? Some of them may, indeed, be garnished with more of the learned mockery of science, enveloped and mystified by sonorous but meaningless phrases, pedantically compounded from Greek and Latin; but, strip them of all verbiage, and of what they borrow from the current medical science of the day, and you reduce them to mere theories, based upon naked assumptions most preposterous, unsupported by one particle of evidence worthy the consideration of any reasonable man. One would think, surely, even from a cursory review of medical history, that the world had had sufficient experience of the futility of medical theories and hypothetical systems, to lead men to some more substantial method of medical reform.

But what says the disciple of Hahnemann? "I have a general firm principle,"—"a *fixed law* of cure." "I lay aside all arbitrary and useless classification of diseases." "I examine the symptoms as closely as though such another [case] had never occurred before." "It matters not how diseases may vary at different times, and under different circumstances." "Experience,—that most deceitful guide in medicine,"—and "the private judgment" of the physician, are not to be trusted! But "my fixed law of cure," "*similia*," &c., is always at hand! I select "a medicine, the effects of which resemble"—"those of the disease before me,"—reduce it "by process of trituration and shaking with neutral substances, till I succeed in developing the internal atoms of a drug-mass, so as to have none of the matter left to dissolve on the tongue or in the stomach," and my work is

systematically accomplished. We have no occasion for "experience" or "private judgment"! "Our therapeutic law is as firm as gravitation," and "our other principles are perfect." * And what, in the name of reason, follows? Why, verily, "*our system is infallible*:" by it *there can be no mistake*! Do you say this is a caricature? I deny the allegation. It may be absurd; but, if so, it is no fault of mine. I utter no slander, but simply exhibit before you the naked figments of the system, in the veritable language of one of its champions.

Every sect must have its "system." The Thompsonian, of humbler literary pretensions than his antipode, the globulist, has his "system" also, founded on the dogma that "heat is life, and cold is death." According to his philosophy, heat and cold are antagonist entities, contending against each other. So long as the former prevails, all is well; but, if the latter get possession of the body, or any part thereof, death approaches. He has *his* "fixed law of cure;" but with him it is, *Contraria contrariis curantur*. He, too, disregards all arbitrary and useless classifications and distinctions, having, as he supposes, a surer guide, a universal "fixed law of cure." If the demon "cold" enter the body, he is to be dislodged by the introduction of heat, externally and internally applied, not in imaginary "atoms," but in potential quantities.

Another famous "new-school" sect is the "eclectic," as they arrogantly style themselves; a sort of offset from Thompsonism. They are rampant "reformers,"

* *Vide Putnam's Magazine* for December, 1853, pp. 641, *et seq.* Defence of Homœopathy.

assuming the garb of science, but possessing none of its substance. They evince their ignorance by their fondness for the use of technicalities they do not understand, and their proneness to appropriate to "their system" such pedantic, senseless epithets as "physopathy," "physomedical," "eclectic," "eclecticism," "new-school practice." *These*, together with other clap-trap phrases, such as "medical reform," "innocent and sanative medication," "all medication should, as far as possible, be both sanative and innocent," are the changes continually rung before the public. They are clamorous and obtrusive in their denunciations of all regular practice, calling it by the senseless term of "allopathy," "old-school practice," "obsolete systems," &c.; and, by such miserable devices, they have had no inconsiderable success in operating upon the prejudices of the people in many parts of our country. They have so far succeeded as to obtain charters for pseudo-medical colleges from the legislatures of several of the States, in which to manufacture recruits for the legions of quackery. They are wholly indebted to the current medical literature for the little knowledge they possess of medicine. They read lectures from the text-books of regular medicine; but they read them "*eclectically*." They instruct their pupils to study the same text-books; but, to be *sure*, they study them "*eclectically*." What is "eclecticism," and who are the "eclectics"? Why, these wiseacres tell us they have made a wonderful discovery; and it is, that certain medicines, or rather "*their medicines*," always act in harmony with nature and the organism of the system"!

and, thus operating, they "*must always do good, and can never do harm.*" Therefore, "our system is infallible." It so happens, however, that these charming remedies, with a little addition, are the veritable Thompsonian "specifics;" bating, however, the process of steaming; instead of which, and yielding the consistency of Thompson, they "pack" in wet sheets. They do not condescend to give the proof, — the *reason* why their "remedies *always* act in harmony with nature." They sometimes *appear to others* to act in opposition to the safety of the patient. But no matter; they are "eclectics," — "progressives;" and why should they be called upon for proofs and reasons? If their periodicals, which are filled with the "crudest essays and the most fantastic lucubrations," exhibit a fair sample of their attainments, they have sadly mistaken the direction of their movement; for it has carried them back to the dark ages. It is *retro*, and not *pro*-gressive; and they may fitly join hands with their ostentatious prototypes, the eclectics of the fifteenth century.

It was said by a wise man of old, that "there is nothing new under the sun." Whether this ancient maxim proclaims a universal truth, is not yet, perhaps, fully determined; but there is truth in the declaration of Solomon. In the early traditional history of medicine, when it was professedly in the hands of magicians and pagan priests, and when the sick were exposed by the wayside, soliciting the passengers in the streets, and all who thought themselves competent, to prescribe for their diseases, we are informed there were

Temples of Health in Greece and other neighboring countries, dedicated to the worship of Æsculapius.* These temples, it is said, were erected in airy and healthful places, in the vicinity of springs of pure water, or mineral waters, and were presided over with great pomp by a sort of medical priesthood, — the Asclepiadæ. The sick were here received, — subjected to strict discipline, — put upon very abstemious diet, — required to occupy their whole time in some exercise or amusement. On entrance, they were subjected to immersions and ablutions, and regularly required to take courses of bathings, and douches, and frictions, and shampoings. “Charms, enchantments, amulets, magic incantations,” and the like, were brought to bear upon the imagination of the sick, or those who fancied themselves sick; and to these were added religious ceremonies, and whatever might excite or amuse the fancy or arouse the senses. The Asclepiadæ also enjoyed clairvoyant visions of internal diseases, and actually “prescribed drugs as indicated in dreams.” What a marvellous coincidence between the practices of these priest-magicians of ancient Greece, and that of some of the “reformed practitioners” of the middle of the nineteenth century! Verily, has not the prefix *pro* changed places with *retro*? and are not our modern *pro*-gressives really retrograding with railroad speed into the very heart of antiquity? But “*I have a system,*” — “*a new system* of my own,” — says the

* Vide Adams's Life of Hippocrates; J. R. Coxe's Hippocrates and Galen; and Renouard's History of Medicine, as translated in Medico-Chirurgical Review, April, 1847.

hydro-*pro*-gressive; "cold water is always in harmony with nature," and can never be wrong!

Indeed, have not all these sectarian reformers blindly plunged into the dark abyss of hypothesis and mysticism? and, in their deceptive visions of progress, fallen back upon the sophistries and delusions of the dark ages? For, like the mystics of the sixteenth century, they are confident in their own powers, — have unlimited conceit and impudence. They are sectarians, at one time denouncing and disparaging each other, and at another uniting in opposition to the regular profession, and consistent in nothing but this opposition.

These pretended "systems of medical reform," though diametrically opposed to each other, are adroitly compounded of truth and falsehood, — of some well-known and generally admitted truths, with crude hypotheses and unwarranted assumptions, so ingeniously mixed as to be easily palmed off upon the credulous and unwary, as the only true philosophy, — the very quintessence of all science; and multitudes of worthy people receive them as such, and congratulate the world and themselves upon the progress of knowledge.

The pseudo "reformers" really show some attainment in worldly wisdom, whatever else they lack. They industriously circulate journals and magazines, *professedly* medical, but *really* containing nothing but homœopathy, phrenology, hydropathy, or eclecticism; and, in these, they send forth most pathetic appeals for public sympathy and support. "In the contest with old modes, old theories, and antiquated errors," says an eclectic editor, "it is absolutely indispensable

that some means should be had to reach the public mind." Judging them by their contents, their journals are got up specially to "reach the public mind," and not for the promotion of science, which must for ever retrograde under such auspices.

The "public mind" is also reached, often misled, and sometimes corrupted, by the host of itinerant lecturers, "professors" of "physiology," "phrenology," and "psychology," who gather full houses to witness their too often indecent exhibitions of manikins and pictures, and to listen to their low ribaldry and obscene jests, under the guise of science.

Again, there is the army of vagabond practitioners, who wander from place to place, giving free lectures, to make known their wonderful "discoveries" and "infallible remedies," and their labors of love for the health of the dear people, always offering to "give advice to the poor gratis." From the complaisant and sometimes educated disciple of Hahnemann, down to the most vulgar professor of Indian skill, all have their theories and "infallible systems;" and their uniform method of introducing themselves to favor is by attacking and slandering the regular medical practitioner. Spurious medical periodicals, counterfeit editorials, and advertisements in the newspapers, and public and private lectures, are the vehicles through which they carry on their marauding forays against the profession. A favorite mode of attack with them is to seize on the cant of political stump-orators and other fanatical declaimers; and, by the continual reiteration

of such choice phrases as "old fogies," "allopathy," "old school," "antiquated systems," and "*mineral* poisons," mingled with falsehood and plausible sophisms, they have been quite too successful in perverting popular feeling and exciting prejudice — ay, inveterate hatred even — in the minds of multitudes of otherwise right-minded people, against regular medical men.

The magnitude of these evils may, indeed, be denied by some; but am I not right in affirming, that a large majority of physicians not only witness their existence, but see them increasing from year to year? They are realized and acknowledged by physicians, not merely because they are degrading to their own position in society, but as the cause of a vast amount of mental and physical suffering among that class of the community who embrace and are led astray by such false "systems."

In view of this state of things, what is demanded of the medical profession? Do they not, as philanthropists and Christians, owe a duty to society, not yet performed? Does it become them, as such, to wrap themselves in the dignity of science, stand aloof, and view with silent contempt only the predatory incursions of the armies of the aliens into the very domain of medical science; and allow them, unmolested, to seize and prey upon the vital interests of the community, so long as by their boastful sophistries they can contrive to cajole and delude them? The science of medicine itself is in no danger of being arrested or

retarded in its progress by the clamors of these boastful intruders. True science is never ostentatious. Men of science pursue their investigations quietly and in retirement; never prematurely obtrude their opinions, or the results of their labors, before the public. They do not generally make them known to their compeers even, till they have tested and proved them by repeated observation and experiment. It is not science that is to be affected by the attacks of such ignorant marauders; but it is the community, the *people*, who are to suffer from the immense evils of their "universal systems" and "infallible specifics."

Medical men, then, have an important mission to fulfil; and that is, to *instruct the people* on medical subjects. It is clearly the duty of the profession to teach the people the truth; to give them correct views, at least, of some of the elements of medical science. Increase their knowledge, and their confidence in the tricks of impostors and speculators in human life and health will be withdrawn.

Such instruction is demanded by the intellectual aspirations of the people, and by the spirit of the age. At a time when mental activity is so intense and so universal, when everybody is seeking intelligence upon all subjects, it is of vast moment that correct sources of knowledge should be accessible to all; that they may learn truth, and not error. The people *will* inquire into these things, *will seek* instruction of some kind. It is of vital importance then, and it is due, that they should be instructed; and the only question is,

Who shall be their teachers? Shall educated, competent, medical men perform this service, and teach them truth, science, knowledge that shall be useful? Or shall they be left to learn, as at present, the speculations and dogmas of loud-mouthed reformers; the tricks of legerdemain practised by vagrant "professors" of physiology, mesmerism, and psychology; and believe them to be the oracles of science?

Many facts and principles belonging to physiology, hygiene, and practical medicine, are easily comprehended by people of ordinary intelligence; this kind of knowledge is earnestly sought by them; and the physician in his daily walks may communicate much valuable instruction in his familiar intercourse with those he meets. But a more efficient method should be adopted, by lectures on medical subjects in lyceums, or by courses of lectures, and by popular publications. Every physician in every town should feel himself responsible for a course of lectures annually, to the people of his locality, or in the schools, upon medical subjects, in which they are all interested.

Young physicians may do a service to the community, as well as make it the occasion of introducing themselves to notice and business, by giving courses of lectures on medical topics; and older practitioners should not shrink from their duty to enlighten the public upon this all-important subject.

The modern reformers to whose dogmas I have referred are indebted to regular medicine for whatever of truth or science their systems contain; and, al-

though it is *sometimes admitted* that their absurdities have led to improvements in regular practice, I believe it may be affirmed, without fear of refutation, that they have *not added a single fact or principle of any value* to medical science or practice, and have incorporated nothing in their "systems" worthy of consideration, which did not originate in the regular profession, and was not well known to every intelligent physician.

Shall we, then, fold our hands quietly and selfishly, while we behold such delusions and their consequent evils, without making any well-directed effort to arrest them? Truth is powerful, and will prevail. Teach the people truth; not words and theories, but things; and they will no longer pursue phantoms. Let them understand that theories and systems and opinions are worthless, except they are based on facts established by observation of nature. Let them be convinced, that medical men are bound to no hypothetical systems of philosophy, to no arbitrary rules of medication; that their opinions and practices are founded only in common sense, judgment matured by mental culture and experience, by habits of observation, of analysis, and of rigorous induction; in short, that we seek only truth as our guide; — and our instructions to them, and labors for their good, "aided by truth, would work like the little leaven, influencing society, first in small and then in large masses, until the sphere of each one's influence would meet, not to clash and rebound, but first to yield, then merge, and

then coalesce in one large sphere, in whose centre would be placed the light of all truth ; from which the divergent radii, spreading to the distant circumference, would dispel the darkness of the night of ignorance, and introduce to all mankind the daylight of eternal truth."

O B I T U A R Y.

WHILE we meet here to enjoy professional and social intercourse, to exchange congratulations, and to partake of the festivities of this most interesting occasion, as well as to promote the progress of medical science; and while we are cheered by the presence of so many familiar faces and congenial spirits, — let us not forget, that some whom we have heretofore rejoiced to meet on similar occasions are not here, and we shall meet them no more on earth.

Since our last annual meeting, twenty-nine Fellows of this Society have gone to —

“That undiscovered country, from whose bourn
No traveller returns.”

Their exit admonishes us that we, too, are mortal. Death has stricken down the young man just entered on the active duties of his profession, — the man of middle age, — men of threescore and ten and of fourscore years, and the more aged veteran of ninety-five years.

The following members of the Society have died during the last year, viz. : —

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	AGE.
CONSTANTINE B. O'DONNELL	Boston	
ROBERT CAPEN	Boston	63
JOSIAH FLAGG	Boston	60
THOMAS W. PARSONS	Boston	56
GEORGE C. SHATTUCK	Boston	71
A. W. GLEASON	Boston	
DENNIS MCGOWAN	South Boston	
CALVIN NEWTON	Worcester	53
HENRY M. LINCOLN	Westminster	28
AMARIAH PRESTON	Bedford (died in Lexington)	95
N. S. PRENTISS	Roxbury (d. in W. Cambridge)	87
ENOCH PIERCE	Pittsfield	69
PAUL R. METCALF	Wrentham	78
GEORGE A. FIELD	Grafton (died in California)	28
JACOB GOODWIN	Boston	70
ELISHA JAMES	Scituate	69
PHINEAS SAVARY	Attleborough	53
SAMUEL JOHNSON	Andover	54
THOMAS MANNING	Ipswich	79
MILAN G. CAREY	Medford	32
NOAH WHITMAN	West Bridgewater	69
WILLIAM H. A. CRARY	Fall River	
ELIHU DWIGHT	South Hadley	
BENJAMIN SEABURY	Charlestown	69
SYLVANUS PLYMPTON	Woburn	
E. P. HILLS	Shirley	50
T. W. WADSWORTH	Fitchburg	34
SEBA CARPENTER	Attleborough	68
WILLIAM HAWES	Boston	34

The following obituary was furnished by Dr. Jacob Bigelow, by request:—

Dr. GEORGE CHEYNE SHATTUCK, one of the former Presidents of this Society, deceased March 18, 1854, at the age of seventy-one. He had occupied for many years a conspicuous position in the city of Boston as a practitioner of eminence, and a philanthropist of active and extensive benevolence.

Dr. Shattuck was graduated at Dartmouth College in 1803, and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania in 1807. He soon afterwards settled in the practice of medicine in Boston, and was in early life associated with Dr. Samuel Danforth. During a professional career of nearly half a century, he retained the warm attachment of his patients and his numerous friends.

In his social qualities, he was eminent for a quick, just, and

liberal appreciation of character in others. His bearing was frank and friendly, neither marked by ostentation nor reserve. His conversation was impulsive, prompt, and persuasive; and the results of his judgment were much enforced by the honest and earnest manner in which he gave them utterance. His moral qualities were fidelity and truth; deep sensibility to domestic affections; persevering attachment, through all vicissitudes, to his familiar friends; kindness to those who were thrown upon his assistance; and tolerance to the world beside. In early life, his temperament and conscious talent led him into occasional controversies; but these were soon merged in a liberal and just respect for those whose character and claims had been placed by circumstances in conflict with his own. To his earlier friends his attachment was unwavering and undiminished by misfortune; and even descended in acts of substantial kindness from the parents to the children. To young men, of his own and other professions, he rendered friendly offices, enhanced by the value of his practical advice.

As a medical man, Dr. Shattuck had been educated in the school of Rush, and retained through life a partiality for active remedial treatment in disease; sometimes exceeding in energy that of many of his professional brethren. Nevertheless, his discrimination in disease was ready and acute; and he brought to the aid of his patients the advantages of a quick eye, a kind heart, and a prompt interposition of the appliances of the healing art.

He has left much to be remembered of social and domestic virtue; of high and honorable purpose; of comprehensive mental powers, regulated and directed by a constant recognition of the claims of charity, and of professional duty; and by the impulses of his own benevolence towards the extensive circle among which he moved.

The following obituary was furnished by Dr. James Thompson, of Northampton:—

Dr. ELIHU DWIGHT, the son of a farmer, was born in Belchertown, Mass., October 23, 1763. His earlier life, like most youthful lives, was doubtless filled with the endless joys and fleeting sorrows of boyish days. After pursuing the preparatory studies under the tutorage of a minister, he entered Dartmouth College. Immediately upon his graduation in 1790, he com-

menced the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Ebenezer Hunt, Northampton; and, for nearly three years, he enjoyed the benefit of his extended ride. Leaving Dr. Hunt's office in June, 1793, he commenced the practice of physic and surgery in the small village of South Hadley. Now first appeared that indomitable energy of character for which he was ever after so distinguished. To enter a region so sparsely settled, and so unpromising in prospect, with seven rival practioners, and all their accompanying jealousies to contend with, must have required a resoluteness of mind that few in our day possess; and his extended and extensive practice, and his enduring reputation, both among the people and the profession, would prove him a man of more than ordinary abilities. But, like too many of his professional brethren, prevented either by diffidence or laborious duties, he gave to the world no written experience by which he may be estimated.

A man of great physical endurance, he went bravely through the life-wearing and life-shortening labor of an extensive country practice without failing. On his horse, or on his snow-shoes, in summer or winter, day or night, sunshine or storm, he was ever ready to answer the call of the afflicted, whenever or wherever heard.

Dr. Dwight joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1803, and continued an active and useful member until 1834. He graduated from his office twenty-three medical students, most of whom are now in practice. From a record kept by him, his obstetrical practice amounted to nearly three thousand cases, or more than double the present population of South Hadley.

The doctor was devoted to the advancement of the arts and sciences. He was interested in the first American wire manufactory, started in South Hadley Falls. He was also active in opening the Barytes Mines in Hatfield, and in boring for coal at South Hadley Falls.

In his disposition he was social, and universally respected and beloved. He entered heartily into the joys and sorrows of the people. If there was to be a hunt, Dr. Dwight must head the party; and there was no one more able or more willing to do it. In the darkest night, when no one else could tread the woody sides of Holyoke, the doctor was never astray. It was this good-natured disposition, to enter so heartily into the joys of the joyous, and to sympathize so earnestly with the sorrows of the afflicted, that shone out in all his acts, and made him beloved by all who knew him.

Hospitable almost to an excess, his house was always filled with guests; and all who called upon him were most hospitably entertained with the best the house afforded, and departed with feelings of the highest respect for their entertainer.

He continued in practice until the year 1835, when he retired to make way for his son; and buying a farm, in the ease and quiet of a farmer's life, he rested from his labors: from them he had acquired a hard-earned honor and respect, that strewed with flowers the path that sloped downward to the grave. He outlived his generation. One after another, his companions finished their course, and left him alone by the still waters of life, a stranger upon the earth. He died June 1, 1854, in the ninety-first year of his age. His life had burnt to the socket.

The following notice was furnished, at my request, by Dr. Cotting, of Roxbury:—

Dr. PRENTISS was born in North Cambridge, then a part of Charlestown, in a house since and for many years known as "Davenport's Tavern," August 7, 1776, ten years before the Declaration of Independence.

Feeble and delicate in early life, his parents encouraged his natural fondness for books, and determined, if possible, to give him an education. Correct deportment, faithful application, and facility of acquisition, his characteristics at school, equally marked his college course. At the age of twenty, he graduated at Harvard University. For the next two years, he studied medicine with Dr. Putnam, of Medford; and, for about the same length of time, at Lancaster, with Dr. Atherton, an eminent physician of that day.

He first established himself at Marlborough, where he remained in good practice about ten years. While at that place, his feelings towards the physician already settled there became alienated, on account of some supposed hostility towards himself as a new comer. He subsequently discovered his error; and, in the spirit of true manliness and candor which characterized all his life, he admitted his misconstructions, and proffered his friendship. He was met in a similar spirit, and a mutual attachment sprung up between the parties, which lasted through life.

To enable him to acquire his profession, it had been necessary for him to teach school. For this occupation he was peculiarly qualified by nature and education. His preferences also led in this direction; so that when, in 1801, he was invited to take charge of the "Grammar School" (now known as the English High and

Latin Schools) in Roxbury, on his own terms, he accepted the offer, and removed thither.

After nine years of faithful and acceptable service, he resigned this charge, and opened a private school. At the same time, he continued the practice of medicine. The next year he was chosen Selectman and Assessor; and subsequently, for five or more years, he represented Roxbury in the State Legislature. In 1816, he was chosen Town-clerk, and held the office, by annual re-election, until the adoption of the city charter in 1846, a period of thirty years. His last official act was that of administering the oath of office to the first mayor of the new city. The offices and honors he received from his fellow-citizens were from their own spontaneous action, and never from any solicitation of his, by deed or word. Those who knew him best affirm that he had no selfish traits of character, and no ambition to gratify but that of being useful. His pupils continued to love and respect him to his latest years, and from some of them he received a most substantial testimonial of their regard only a few weeks before his death.

In 1793, Dr. Prentiss married Miss Abigail Perkins, a granddaughter of Dr. Kennedy, of Boston. By this marriage, he had eight children, three of whom are still living. In 1807, he married Miss Abigail Pico, of Boston, and outlived her more than twenty-five years. He joined the Massachusetts Medical Society in 1813, and his name was placed on the retired list in 1844.

By mild deportment, soothing manners, and indefatigable attention, he won the affections of many families, who lamented his removal from the place of his earlier practice, and of many others who continued to seek his advice long after he had expressed a wish to retire from all professional service.

Dr. Prentiss was a man of venerable appearance. His tall, robust, and noble form, locks white as snow, and his open, pleasant countenance, always attracted the attention of strangers. Being of an affectionate and cheerful disposition, eminently conscientious, ever disposed to do good unto others, a man of unblemished integrity, great firmness, and devoted piety, he was universally respected by all who knew him.

He died at West Cambridge, where he had for a short time resided with his daughter, on Saturday, November 5, 1853. The funeral services at that place on the Monday following were attended by the City Government of Roxbury, by many of his former townsmen and friends, as well as by a large assemblage from the neighborhood.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

1849.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held at the Masonic Temple, Tremont Street, Boston, on Wednesday, May 30th, at 10, A.M.

The records of the proceedings of the last Annual Meeting, and the doings of the Counsellors during the past year, were read.

The reports of the Treasurer and of the Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, were read and accepted; from which it appears that

The receipts during the year were \$2,217 29

The expenditures, 2,155 54

Leaving a balance of \$61 75

The amount of the permanent fund in the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company is \$10,717 43.

The report of the Committee on the Library was read and accepted.

The report of the Committee on the Finances of the Society was read and accepted.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of Counsellors.

The following gentlemen were appointed Scrutineers.

Drs. Blake, Whitney, Parkman, Reed, Robbins, Shurtleff, Lyman and J. S. Williams.

The report of the Committee on amendment of the By-Laws was read.

Voted, That it be received as a whole, and be open to amendments.

Voted, To substitute "last Wednesday in May" for third Wednesday in June, in the first line of Art. I.

Voted, To substitute "May" for June in the 12th line of Article XXVI.

Moved, that the words "no person shall be admitted a member unless he present a recommendatory letter from the Secretary of the District in which he resides, and also that said letter be exhibited within one year," shall be added to Art. III.

Voted, That this proposition be referred to the Counsellors.

Voted, To accept the report of the Committee as amended.

Voted, That the Counsellors be instructed to apply to the Legislature for such alterations in the Charter of the Society as to sanction the changes effected therein by the By-Laws just adopted, and also for authority to apply the income of the permanent fund to the annual uses of the Society.

Voted, That the Treasurer of the Massachusetts Medical Society, with the consent of the President, be authorized to draw out, annually, the income or interest of the fund of this Society from the office of the Massachusetts Hospital Life Insurance Company, and to give receipts for the same on behalf of the Society.

Voted, That the foregoing By-Laws shall take effect when the necessary sanction of the Legislature shall have been obtained.

Voted, That the existing officers and Counsellors shall continue in office until their places shall have been filled, in accord-

ance with the provisions of the foregoing By-Laws, and when these By-Laws go into operation all preceding ones inconsistent with them shall be repealed.

The Scrutineers reported the following gentlemen elected Counsellors.

Barnstable County.—Drs. John Harpur, E. W. Carpenter, George Shove, Thos. P. Jackson.

Berkshire.—Drs. Royal Fowler, Henry H. Childs, Asa G. Welch, Selden Jennings.

Bristol.—Drs. Caleb Swan, Benoni Carpenter, Johnson Gardner.

Dukes.—Dr. Clement F. Shiverick.

Essex South District.—Drs. A. L. Peirson, George Choate, Asa Story, Abraham Gould, Samuel Johnson, Ebenezer Hunt, Josiah Lamson, Ebenezer S. Phelps.

Essex North District.—Drs. Henry C. Perkins, D. Dana, David Mighill, Timothy Kininston.

Franklin County.—Drs. Stephen W. Williams, James Deane, George W. Hamilton.

Hampden County.—Drs. Jesse W. Rice, Nathan Adams, Cyrus Bell.

Hampshire County.—Drs. Edward G. Ufford, Addison L. Peck, Daniel Thompson, Chauncy A. Hall.

Middlesex County.—Drs. Zadoc Howe, Anson Hooker, Abel H. Wilder, Simon Whitney, Jonathan W. Bemis, Horatio Adams, L. V. Bell, Charles F. Chaplin, Hiram Hosmer, Benj. Cutter.

Middlesex District Society.—Drs. Elisha Huntington, John C. Dalton, Jeremiah P. Jewett, Nehemiah Cutter, Amos B. Bancroft, Alfred Hitchcock, David Wells, John C. Bartlett, John W. Graves.

Nantucket County.—Dr. Elisha P. Fearing.

Norfolk County.—Drs. Ebenezer Stone, Edward Jarvis, Appleton Howe, Jonathan Ware, Henry Bartlett, Ebenezer

Woodward, Simeon Tucker, Stephen Salisbury, Danforth P. Dwight.

Plymouth County.—Drs. Ezekiel Thaxter, Winslow Warren, Paul L. Nichols.

Suffolk County.—Drs. John Ware, Geo. C. Shattuck, Jacob Bigelow, Geo. Hayward, Z. B. Adams, S. D. Townsend, John Homans, Edward Reynolds, John Jeffries, J. C. Hayden, D. H. Storer, Samuel Morrill, J. D. Fisher, C. G. Putnam, A. A. Watson, M. S. Perry, Ezra Palmer, Jr., Daniel Harwood, A. A. Gould, Martin Gay, Henry Dyer, C. H. Stedman, J. B. S. Jackson, George Bartlett, John Odin, J. B. Gregerson, N. B. Shurtleff, Charles Gordon, H. I. Bowditch, H. G. Clark, Charles Chase.

Southern District Society.—Drs. William C. Whitridge, Samuel Sawyer, Joseph Haskell, Jason H. Archer, Andrew Mackie.

Worcester County.—Drs. Edward Flint, Charles W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, John Green, Joseph Stone, Benjamin F. Heywood, John G. Metcalf, Thomas R. Boutelle, Clisson C. Field, William Workman, Samuel Hartwell.

The Annual Address was read by Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Dorchester.

On motion of Dr. Hooper, of Fall River,

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Jarvis for his very able and interesting discourse.

A discussion having arisen in regard to the nature of the certificate which licentiates should be required to exhibit before being permitted to become Fellows of the Society, it was

Voted, That the subject be referred to the Counsellors.

The annual dinner was served at Faneuil Hall.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Recording Sec'y.*

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNSELLORS.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1848.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Masonic Temple, Tremont Street, October 4th, 1848, at 11, A.M.

The records of the last meeting of the Counsellors were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the following names of gentlemen who have become Fellows of the Society since the last annual meeting by signing the By-Laws.

Constantine B. O'Donnell, *Boston.*

Jos. Lloyd Martin, *Boston.*

Freeman Richards, *Woburn.*

David Youngman, *S. Woburn.*

George Faulkner, *Roxbury.*

Morris Mattson, *Boston.*

Alfred Lambert, *Springfield.*

Walter Kidder, *Lowell.*

Letters from Fellows stating their desire to retire from the Society were referred to the Committee on Resignations.

Dr. Josiah Crosby, of Manchester, N. H., was elected an honorary member of the Society.

Dr. Levi Chamberlain, of Greenwich (Hampshire Co.) was elected a Fellow of the Society.

A letter from Dr. Williams, of Deerfield, in regard to payment of his expenses as member of the committee on Dr. Childs's Preamble and Resolutions, was referred to the Committee appointed in June last.

Dr. Jarvis, from the Committee on a Sanitary Survey of the State, made an elaborate and interesting report, which was accepted.

Voted, That the Treasurer be authorized to borrow \$200, in anticipation of income.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Recording Sec'y*.

A Special Meeting, called in accordance with a vote of the Society, was held immediately after the adjournment of the last meeting.

Dr. Jeffries presented the report of the Committee appointed to arrange the By-Laws in conformity with the proposed alterations in the By-Laws and Charter.

Voted, On motion of Dr. Peirson, that the report be recommitted with instructions to make any further needful revision; that it be printed, as revised, for distribution to the Counsellors, and that the report be made at the next meeting.

Voted, That when the meeting adjourns, it be to the first Wednesday in December.

Adjourned.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Recording Sec'y*.

DECEMBER MEETING, 1848.

A Special Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held on Wednesday, the 6th of December, at 10 o'clock, A.M. The records of the last meeting were read.

Voted, To dispense with the *reading* of the Report of the Committee on Alterations in the By-Laws.

Voted, That the report be taken up and discussed article by article.

The first six By-Laws were then discussed, and after some amendments, were adopted.

The seventh By-Law was taken up, and after some debate it was

Voted, To defer the discussion of it until the stated meeting in February next.

A letter was read from Dr. Josiah Bartlett, declining to give the annual address ; whereupon it was

Voted, That the President and Recording Secretary be empowered to appoint a substitute.

A letter from Dr. James Jackson was read, declining the office of chairman of the Committee on Reception of Delegates of the American Medical Association ; whereupon it was

Voted, That the President and Recording Secretary be empowered to fill the vacancy.

A letter from Dr. Thomas F. Saxton was read, requesting permission to resign his fellowship. Referred to the Committee on Resignations.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Rec. Secretary*.

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1849.

A Stated Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, Tremont Street, on Wednesday, the 7th of February, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

A letter from Dr. E. Jarvis, of Dorchester, was read, accepting his nomination to deliver the annual address before the Society.

A letter from Dr. J. C. Warren was read, accepting the office of chairman of the Committee for the Reception of the Delegates to the American Medical Association.

A report of the Committee on Resignations was read. Accepted.

A letter from Dr. Levi W. Humphrey, of Southwick, was read, requesting leave to retire from the Society. Referred to the Committee on Resignations.

The report of the Committee to whom was referred the subject of paying the expenses of Committees, was read and accepted.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the following names of gentlemen who had joined the Society since the last stated meeting of the Counsellors, by signing the By-Laws in course, viz.

Constantine B. O'Donnell, *Boston.*

Jos. Lloyd Martin, *Boston.*

Freeman Richards, *Woburn.*

David Youngman, *S. Woburn.*

George Faulkner, *Roxbury.*

Morris Mattson, *Boston.*

Alfred Lambert, *Springfield.*

Walter Kidder, *Lowell.*

William Pitt, *Boston.*

D. D. Slade, “

Thomas Andrews, Jr., *Boston.*

J. J. S. Rogers, *Springfield.*

John H. Jennings, *New Bedford.*

William Barstow, *Roxbury.*

J. S. Williams, *Boston.*

Dr. Joseph Mauran, of Providence, R. I., was nominated as honorary member of the Society.

Dr. Jonathan P. Alden was nominated as Fellow of the Society.

Voted, That a committee be appointed to nominate a committee of five, whose duty it shall be to appoint, with the approbation of the President, the delegates whom the Society is entitled to send to the next annual meeting of the American Medical Association.

Voted, That this committee consist of two members, to be

appointed by the President. Drs. A. L. Peirson, of Salem, and Jeremiah Spofford, of Bradford, were appointed.

Voted, That Dr. Z. B. Adams and Dr. Alexander Thomas be a committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts.

Voted, That Drs. H. I. Bowditch and A. A. Watson be a committee to examine the Library.

Voted, That the following gentlemen constitute the committee to appoint delegates to the Medical Association.

Dr. J. Jeffries, of Boston.

Josiah Bartlett, of Concord.

Jeremy Stimson, of Dedham.

Jonathan Ware, of Milton.

Zadoc Howe, of Billerica.

The further discussion of the report of the Committee on Alterations of the By-Laws, was resumed.

The 7th By-Law was discussed, and after some amendment adopted.

Voted, That the committee be authorized to have copies of the report, as amended, printed for the use of the Counsellors.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to Thursday, February 15th, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Rec. Secretary*.

FEBRUARY ADJOURNED MEETING.

An Adjourned Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held on Thursday, February 15th, at 11 o'clock, A.M., at the Society's room, Tremont Street.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Recording Secretary and the Treasurer were appointed a committee to prepare a new catalogue of the Fellows of the Society.

Dr. Jeffries proposed a new draft of the 7th By-Law, embracing the amendments adopted at the last meeting.

Voted, To accept the amendments in this form.

Discussions were held on the By-Laws, from the 8th to the 35th inclusive; and all of them with some amendments were adopted.

Voted, That this meeting be adjourned to Tuesday, the 20th instant.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Rec. Secretary*.

FEBRUARY 20TH, ADJOURNED MEETING.

An Adjourned Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held on Tuesday, February 20th, 1849, at the Society's room in the Masonic Temple, Tremont Street, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The Counsellors resolved themselves into a Committee of the Whole, Dr. Ebenezer Alden, of Randolph, in the chair.

XXXth By-Law. Dr. Jeffries moved to amend by adding the four first lines to the XIIIth By-Law.

Voted, To accept this By-Law as amended.

Voted, That the Committee rise and report.

Voted, That the report be accepted.

Voted, That the By-Laws, as amended, be printed and distributed to each member of the Society before the Annual Meeting.

Voted, That Drs. Bigelow, Ware, Alden, Z. B. Adams and J. B. S. Jackson, be a committee to report to the Counsellors upon the finances of the Society.

Voted, That the President and Recording Secretary be authorized to appoint a committee of five to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting.

The following gentlemen were appointed, viz. Drs. C. H. Stedman, J. V. C. Smith, Morrill Wyman, G. A. Bethune, and W. J. Dale.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Rec. Secretary*.

MAY 29TH, SPECIAL MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Society's room, in the Masonic Temple, on Tuesday, May 29th, at 11 o'clock, A.M.

The records of the last meeting were read.

The report of the Finance Committee, recommending that the interest of the permanent fund be applied towards the payment of the annual expenses of the Society, and that the annual assessment be reduced to two dollars, was read and accepted. On file.

Voted, That the necessary alterations in the By-Laws (with reference to the above report) be made previously to their presentation to the Society.

Voted, That permission be given to the Fellows residing in Suffolk County, to form a District Society.

Voted, That a clause be inserted in the By-Laws, providing that officers of the Society, not Counsellors, shall be, *ex officio*, entitled to vote at the meetings of the Counsellors.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to the donor of several valuable anatomical plates to the Library of the Society.

Voted, That the letter of Dr. Glazier, of Fall River, asking permission to become a retired member, be referred to the Committee on Resignations.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

C. G. PUTNAM, *Rec. Secretary*.

MEETING, MAY 31, 1849.

A Stated Meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at their room, in the Masonic Temple, May 31st, at 10, A.M.

The records of the last meeting of the Counsellors, and of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Society, were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the following gentlemen who had joined the Society since the previous meeting of the Counsellors.

Charles A. King, *Abington*.

A. B. Malcolm, *Boston*.

Henry W. Williams, “

John G. Sewall, “

A. Carter Webber, *Cambridge*.

Ebenezer K. Sanborn, *Lowell*.

George I. Townsend, *Boston*.

Abner H. Brown, *Lowell*.

William L. Harmon, *Lynn*.

Alfred C. Garrett, *Abington*.

C. Soule Cartée.

Robert Green, *Boston*.

Joseph Whitmore, *Lowell*.

John P. Maynard, *Newton*.

Levi Folsom, *New Bedford*.

John B. Taylor, *East Cambridge*.

Alexander S. Butler, *Boston*.

John Renton, *Lynn*.

Jonathan S. Calef, *S. Boston*.

Paul L. Nichols, *Roxbury*.

Benjamin F. Burgess.

Leonard French, *Ashby*.

Levi Howard, *Chelmsford*.

Henry N. Jones, *Kingston*.

C. W. B. Kidder, *Lowell*.

Letters were then read by the Corresponding Secretary, from the following persons, requesting to be allowed to retire from the Society, viz. : Drs. Underwood, of Hingham ; Ward N. Boylston, of Princeton ; Jesse Chickering, of Roxbury ; Smith, of Williamstown ; and Alexander Read, of New Bedford. Referred to the Committee on Resignations.

A communication was read from Charles W. Wilder, in which he recommended Dr. William Gadding, of Winchendon, to become a member of the Society by election. His proposition was laid on the table, but subsequently the vote was reconsidered, and the documents referred to the next meeting of the Counsellors.

Some discussion arose as to the nature and date of certificates necessary for admission into the Society, and many desultory remarks were made with reference to the propriety of receiving the credentials of a gentleman who had recently joined the Society.

Voted, That a committee of three be chosen to investigate the subject, and to report at the next stated meeting of the Counsellors.

Drs. Carpenter of Rehoboth, Phelps of Attleboro', and M. R. Randall of Seekonk, were chosen.

A petition from Dr. Root, Secretary of Essex North District Medical Society, was read, requesting that a Board of Censors for Essex North District might be chosen. Laid on the table.

Nominations of Mr. Hayes, of Lowell, and Dr. Blanding, of Philadelphia, to become honorary members, and of J. W. Webster, of South Dennis, to become a Fellow, were read and passed over to the next meeting of the Counsellors.

Petitions from Dr. M. R. Randall, &c., to be set apart as the Bristol District Medical Society, and of Dr. Charles Howe, &c., of Taunton, to be united with it, were granted.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers for the ensuing year.

Dr. Bemis, of Charlestown, and Dr. Chase, of Chelsea, were appointed Scrutineers.

Dr. John Ware was chosen *President*.

Joseph Stone, *Vice-President*.

Charles G. Putnam,* *Corresponding Secretary*.

Henry I. Bowditch, *Recording Secretary*.

Abraham A. Watson,† *Librarian*.

Augustus A. Gould, *Treasurer*.

Censors for the First Medical District and for the Society at Large. The following gentlemen were elected.

Drs. J. D. Fisher, George W. Otis, Alexander Thomas, J. B. S. Jackson, John Flint.

The following were chosen Censors for the Second Medical District.

Drs. B. F. Heywood, William Workman, Benjamin Pond, Joseph Sargent, J. G. Metcalf.

The following were chosen Censors of the Third Medical District.

Drs. David Bemis, Jehiel Abbot, E. G. Ufford, S. B. Woodward, James Deane.

The following were chosen Censors of the Fourth Medical District.

Drs. H. H. Childs, A. G. Welch, Robert Worthington, N. S. Babbitt, C. Guiteau.

The following were elected Censors of the Fifth Medical District.

Drs. Alexander Read, Lyman Bartlett, Thomas Wilbur, John Perkins, Perez F. Doggett.

The following were chosen Censors of the Sixth Medical District.

Drs. Aaron Cornish, E. W. Carpenter, T. P. Jackson, J. Leonard, G. Atwood.

Dr. Andrew Mackie, of New Bedford, was chosen to deliver the next Annual Address.

* In place of Dr. Storer, who declined a re-election.

† In place of Dr. Gay, who declined a re-election.

The following were chosen a Committee on Publications.
Drs. Jacob Bigelow, O. W. Holmes, A. Hooker.

The following were elected a Committee on Resignations.
Drs. George W. Otis, Jr., Augustus A. Gould, D. H. Storer.

The following Resolutions, appended to the Report of the Committee appointed by the Counsellors to examine the Library and to report to the Society, were called up.

Resolved, That the Librarian be directed to notify all those who have books belonging to the Library, to return them forthwith.

Resolved, That hereafter no Fellow of the Society shall be allowed to have more than four books at a time, or to retain any one longer than six months, without special leave therefor from the Counsellors.

Resolved, That the whole subject of the present condition and future arrangements of the Library be referred to the Counsellors, with full powers to act in the premises as they shall deem most expedient for the rights of the whole Society.

Voted, That the above Resolutions be adopted by the Counsellors, and that Drs. Bowditch, Watson and Jarvis be a committee to consider the subject referred to in the last Resolution. A slight verbal report was subsequently made.

The Committee on Resignations reported favorably in regard to the following applicants.

Drs. Dean Robinson, W. Newbury ; William Bridgman, Springfield ; Amory Glazier, Fall River ; Jonas Underwood, Hingham ; William Gordon, Taunton ; Philemon Stacy, Hatfield ; William W. Cutler, Reading ; Charles Thatcher, Boston ; John B. King, Nantucket ; Levi W. Humphrey, Southwick.

On motion of the Treasurer, it was

Voted, That unless a copy of Copland's Dictionary be prepared before the next Annual Meeting, it be left at the discretion of the Treasurer and Committee on Publications, either to distribute or not, as they shall deem most consistent with the funds of the Society, the usual annual volume.

The Censors of the First Medical District made their report, which was accepted.

On motion of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, it was

Voted, That the vote passed by the Society at their last Annual Meeting, in regard to the revised code of By-Laws, be adopted, and carried into effect by the Counsellors; and that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a memorial to the Legislature on the subject, and report at the next meeting of the Counsellors.

Drs. George Hayward, R. W. Hooper, and H. G. Clark, were appointed a committee under this vote.

On motion of Dr. Peirson, it was

Voted, That Drs. George Hayward, Reynolds, J. Bigelow, Homans and Gould, be a committee on the subject of disposing of the permanent fund of the Society, and that they report to the Counsellors.

Dr. Joseph Mauran, of Providence, R. I., was elected an honorary member, and Dr. J. P. Alden, of Cambridgeport, a Fellow of the Society.

Dr. Jarvis made a verbal report in regard to the doings of the Committee of the Sanitary Survey of the State.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

HENRY I. BOWDITCH, *Rec. Secretary.*

Officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

CHOSEN MAY 31, 1849.

JOHN WARE, *President.*

JOSEPH STONE, *Vice-President.*

CHARLES G. PUTNAM, *Corresponding Secretary.*

HENRY I. BOWDITCH, *Recording Secretary.*

ABRAHAM A. WATSON, *Librarian.*

AUGUSTUS A. GOULD, *Treasurer.*

CENSORS.

For the Society at Large and the First Medical District.

J. D. Fisher, Geo. W. Otis, Alexander Thomas, J. B. S. Jackson, John Flint.

For the Second District. B. F. Heywood, William Work-

man, Benjamin Pond, Joseph Sargent, J. G. Metcalf.

For the Third District. David Bemis, Jehiel Abbot, E. G.

Ufford, S. B. Woodward, James Deane.

For the Fourth District. H. H. Childs, A. G. Welch,

Robert Worthington, N. S. Babbitt, C. Guiteau.

For the Fifth District. Alexander Read, Lyman Bartlett,

Thomas Wilbur, John Perkins, Perez F. Doggett.

For the Sixth District. Aaron Cornish, E. W. Carpenter,

T. P. Jackson, J. Leonard, G. Atwood.

Committee on Publications. Jacob Bigelow, O. W. Holmes, A. Hooker.

Committee on Resignations. Geo. W. Otis, Jr., A. A. Gould, D. H. Storer.

Dr. Andrew Mackie, of New Bedford, was chosen to deliver the next Annual Address.

Officers of District Medical Societies.

Barnstable, Berkshire, Essex North, Essex South, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex Southern District, have made no returns to the Corresponding Secretary.

WORCESTER DISTRICT SOCIETY.—John George Metcalf, *President*. Benjamin Pond, *Vice-President*. William D. Peck, *Secretary*. Benjamin Heywood, *Treasurer and Librarian*.

Committee on the Waldo Legacy. William Workman, Benj. F. Heywood, J. G. Metcalf.

Bristol District Society. John Carpenter, *President*. M. R. Randall, *Vice-President*. Phineas Savory and James Dean, *Librarians*. William F. Perry, *Secretary*.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Massachusetts Medical Society.

1850.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual Meeting of the MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY was held at the Masonic Temple, on Wednesday, May 29, 1850, at 10, A.M.

In consequence of the illness of the President, and the death of the Vice-President, the Senior Counsellor, Dr. Bigelow, was called to the Chair.

The records of the last Annual Meeting of the Society, and of the doings of the Counsellors during the year, were read.

The report of the Committee on the Library was read and accepted.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of Counsellors.

Drs. E. W. Blake, Durkee, Harlow, J. W. Stone, and J. C. Dalton, jun. were appointed Scrutineers.

On motion of Dr. Dale, it was voted to close the polls at 12 o'clock.

The Secretary read the attested official copy of the Act of the Legislature, granting alterations in the charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society; and offered the following resolves: —

1. *Resolved*, That, in accordance with and in confirmation

of the vote passed last year, this Society hereby accepts of the charter as amended by the Legislature.

2. *Resolved*, That the new code of By-Laws, as adopted by the Society, shall take effect and go into operation on the first day of August next.

3. *Resolved*, That the Counsellors are hereby directed to district anew the State, as soon as possible after the adjournment of this meeting, and to take measures to have District Societies formed.

On motion of Dr. Carpenter, of Pawtucket, the resolves were divided.

Resolve 1st was adopted.

On motion of Dr. Peirson, the following preamble was prefixed to the 2d and 3d resolves: —

“The provisions of the present By-Laws having been complied with,” *Resolved*, &c.

Dr. Adams, of Boston, moved the following as a substitute for the preamble and resolves: —

That, when the changes of the Society's laws, made by the Legislature at its last session, shall be approved and accepted by the Counsellors, they shall immediately go into operation as the future laws of the Society. — *Not voted*.

The preamble and resolves were then *adopted*.

Dr. Hooker presented a report from the Committee on the Treasurer's account, whereby it appeared that the accounts had been correctly kept, and that a balance of \$382.26 remained in the Treasury of the Society.

The report was *accepted*.

At the call of Dr. Leonard, of Barnstable district, a communication from that district was read, reflecting upon the professional doings of Dr. H. J. Bigelow.

Dr. Bigelow asked leave to defend himself, which was granted, and, after making explanations, moved that the Barnstable District Medical Society have leave to withdraw its communication.

Dr. T. P. Jackson, of Barnstable district, rejoined, and introduced documents.

Dr. Storer, of Boston, moved the following amendment to Dr. Bigelow's resolution, — "and that the Barnstable District Medical Society be requested so far to amend their records as to expunge the vote of censure passed on Dr. Bigelow."

Letters were read from B. F. Hallet, Esq. in exculpation of Dr. Bigelow.

On motion of Dr. W. E. Townsend, of Boston, the whole subject was *indefinitely postponed*.

The Scrutineers reported the names of the following persons elected as Counsellors for the ensuing year: —

Barnstable County. — Drs. John Harpur, E. W. Carpenter, George Shove, Thomas P. Jackson.

Berkshire. — Drs. Royal Fowler, Henry H. Child, Asa G. Welch, Selden Jennings.

Bristol District Society. — Drs. Ira Samson, Benoni Carpenter, Joseph Hatch.

Dukes' County. — Dr. Clement F. Shiverick.

Essex South District. — Drs. A. L. Peirson, Geo. Choate, Asa Story, Abraham Gould, Samuel Johnson, Ebenezer Hunt, Josiah Lamson, Ebenezer S. Phelps.

Essex North District. — Drs. Henry C. Perkins, D. Dana, Rufus Longley, S. Johnson.

Franklin County. — Drs. Stephen W. Williams, James Doane, George W. Hamilton.

Hampden County. — Drs. Jesse W. Rice, Nathan Adams, Cyrus Bell.

Hampshire County. — Drs. Edward G. Ufford, Addison L. Peck, Daniel Thompson, E. C. Richardson.

Middlesex County. — Drs. Zadoc Howe, Anson Hooker, Morrill Wyman, Simon Whitney, Jonathan W. Bemis, Horatio Adams, Luther V. Bell, Charles F. Chaplin, Hiram Hosmer, J. M. Whittemore.

Middlesex District Society. — J. C. Dalton, J. P. Jewett, A. H. Brown, David Wells, E. Huntington, A. B. Bancroft, N. B. Edwards, and Josiah Bartlett.

Nantucket County. — Dr. Elisha P. Fearing.

Norfolk County. — Drs. Ebenezer Stone, Edward Jarvis, Appleton Howe, Jonathan Ware, Henry Bartlett, Ebenezer Woodward, Simeon Tucker, Stephen Salisbury, Danforth P. Dwight.

Plymouth County. — Drs. Ezekiel Thaxter, Winslow Warren, Paul S. Nichols.

Suffolk County. — Drs. John Ware, George C. Shattuck, Jacob Bigelow, Geo. Hayward, Z. B. Adams, S. D. Townsend, John Homans, Edward Reynolds, John Jeffries, J. C. Hayden, D. H. Storer, Samuel Morrill, C. G. Putnam, A. A. Watson, M. S. Perry, Ezra Palmer, jun. Daniel Harwood, A. A. Gould, Henry Dyer, C. H. Stedman, J. B. Gregerson, J. B. S. Jackson, George Bartlett, John Odin, N. B. Shurtleff, Charles Gordon, Henry I. Bowditch, Henry G. Clark, Charles Chase.

Southern District Society. — Drs. Andrew Mackie, Paul Spooner, Walton L. Ellis.

Worcester County. — Drs. Edward Flint, Charles W. Wilder, Benjamin Pond, John Green, Benjamin P. Heywood, John G. Metcalf, Thos. R. Boutelle, Chas. M. Fay, P. T. Kendall, William Workman, James W. Robbins.

On motion of Dr. Hooper, of Fall River, the report of the elections of Southern District Medical Society was recommended, with instructions to inquire whether the name of Dr. Lucas was not upon some of the votes handed in.

Subsequently, Dr. Lucas's name was reported by the Committee as having been accidentally omitted.

Voted, likewise, to proceed to vote for the Counsellors for Bristol county.

Subsequently, the names of Dr. Caleb Swan, Benoni Carpenter, and Johnson Gardner, were reported as Counsellors chosen for Bristol county.

Dr. H. J. Bigelow moved a reconsideration of the vote whereby action on the complaint, preferred against him by the Barnstable District Medical Society, was indefinitely postponed.

Dr. H. J. Bigelow presented the following, which was voted :

Resolved, That the complaints preferred by the Barnstable District Medical Society, with the documents relating thereto, be referred to the Counsellors, with a view to an investigation of the facts of the case, and with the request that an opinion be given upon the conduct of Dr. Bigelow, and of the Barnstable District Medical Society.

The amendment to the By-Laws proposed by Dr. Jacob Bigelow at the last meeting of the Counsellors, and by them referred to the Society, was taken up, and *postponed* until the next annual meeting.

A communication from the majority of a Committee of the Southern District Medical Society, respecting trials for mal-practice, was referred to the Counsellors.

Dr. Mackie, of New Bedford, read the Annual Address.

Dr. Peirson, of Salem, moved that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Mackie for his interesting and instructive address.

The Society then adjourned to Faneuil Hall, and there partook of the annual dinner; four hundred and fifty of the Fellows being present.

HENRY I. BOWDITCH,

Recording Secretary.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNSELLORS.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1849.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held at the Masonic Temple, Oct. 3, 1849, at 11, A.M.

The records of the previous meeting were read.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. Root, of the Essex North District Medical Society, requesting the Counsellors to "organize said society into a medical district, and appoint a Board of Censors." — Laid upon the table.

The nominations of Dr. Wm. Coddington, of Winchenden, J. W. Webster, S. Dennis (as Fellows by election), and Mr. Augustus A. Hays, of Lowell, Dr. William Blanding, of Philadelphia (as honorary members), were brought up by the Secretary. Laid on table. (Subsequently they were taken up, and the first two elected.) *Vide* below.

In the absence of the Chairman (Dr. Hayward), the Secretary read the report of the Committee appointed to draft a memorial to the Legislature, in regard to the new By-Laws. The report was accepted, and the same Committee was directed to present the following memorial to the Legislature, with such changes as may be found necessary, on a further comparison of the proposed new By-Laws with those heretofore in force: —

"To the Honorable Senate and House of the Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"The undersigned, a Committee of the Massachusetts Medical Society, beg leave respectfully to represent, that, by an Act of the Legislature passed March 8, 1803, it was required that the Counsellors of the Society should be chosen by the Fellows.

"That the meetings of the Counsellors should be held in

the town of Boston, or as near thereto as may be; and it is also required by the Revised Statutes, part 1, chap. 22, that the Censors of the Society shall be chosen by the Counsellors.

"The undersigned would further represent, that, at the last annual meeting of the Society, in May, 1849, various alterations were made in the By-Laws, which it was thought would promote the welfare of the institution. Among these it was proposed, if the sanction of your honorable body could be obtained, that the Counsellors should hereafter be chosen by the District Societies; that the first meeting of the Counsellors should be held in 'such one of the principal towns or cities of the Commonwealth' as the Counsellors shall fix upon as the place for the annual meeting of the Society; and it was also agreed, that the Censors should hereafter be chosen by the District Societies, instead of the Counsellors.

"The undersigned, therefore, pray that such alterations may be made in the Act of 1803, and in sec. 2 of part 1, chap. 22 of the Revised Statutes, as will prevent the proposed By-Laws from conflicting with the Laws of the Commonwealth, and as in duty bound will ever pray."

Dr. Jacob Bigelow suggested, that one duty devolving upon the Committee appointed to memorialize the Legislature was to ask for the right to use the interest of the permanent fund, in accordance with the vote of the Society at its last annual meeting. No vote was taken, as it was considered this duty devolved upon the Committee, in consequence of the previous action of the Society and of the Counsellors.

In the absence of the Chairman (Dr. Hayward), Dr. Jacob Bigelow made a verbal report from the Committee on the permanent fund; requesting that the Committee might be discharged, as they could not propose any plan that would not be inconsistent with the votes previously passed by the Society, whereby the subject was ordered to be brought before the Legislature of Massachusetts.

Voted, To accept the report, and discharge the Committee.

A communication from Lemuel Shattuck, Esq. was pre-

sented, requesting the aid of the Counsellors in a report to be made to the Legislature, in regard to a sanitary survey of the State, &c.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch, the memorial was referred to a Select Committee, with full powers.

The following gentlemen compose that Committee: Drs. Edward Jarvis, J. D. Fisher, Samuel Parkman.

The Librarian stated, that, with his permission, Mr. Shattuck had taken some books from the Library, which he (Mr. S.) wished permanently to retain.

On motion of Dr. Gould, it was voted that Mr. Shattuck be allowed to retain the books until after the report has been made to the Legislature; and, after that period, the books must be immediately returned.

The Librarian reported, that no perfect set of the Society's published papers could be found in the Library.

Whereupon, on motion of Dr. Chase, it was —

Voted, That the Librarian be requested to procure one or more copies of the Society's Transactions; and that he be allowed, if necessary, to *purchase one set*.

The amendment of the Constitution, proposed at the last meeting, was taken up, and, on motion of Dr. Bowditch, was indefinitely postponed.

Voted, To appoint a Committee of seven to district the State, in a manner agreeable to the new By-Laws.

The following gentlemen composed that Committee: —

Dr. Reynolds, of Suffolk; Dr. Pond, of Worcester; Dr. Ufford, of Hampshire; Dr. Worthington, of Berkshire; Dr. Bartlett, of Norfolk; Dr. Carpenter, of Bristol; Dr. Adams, of Middlesex.

Voted, That a Committee of three be appointed to nominate delegates from the Massachusetts Medical Society, to attend at the next meeting of the American Medical Association; said Committee to report to the Counsellors at their next stated meeting.

The following gentlemen composed the Committee: Dr. Jacob Bigelow, Dr. Bemis, Dr. A. A. Gould.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch, the Secretary was directed hereafter to advertise the meetings of the Counsellors in three newspapers, published in Boston, one of which shall be, if possible, a medical journal.

He was likewise directed to send a private notice of such meetings to every Counsellor in the State.

Voted, That the Secretary be allowed to employ a clerk to arrange the documents belonging to the Society, in a more methodical manner, and easy of reference, provided that not more than twenty dollars be expended therefor.

The nominations of Drs. Coddington and Webster were taken up, and both these gentlemen were elected Fellows of the Society.

The nominations of Mr. Hayes, of Lowell, and Dr. Blanding, of Philadelphia, were referred to the next meeting of the Counsellors.

The meeting was then dissolved.

HENRY I. BOWDITCH, *Rec. Secretary.*

FEBRUARY MEETING, 1850.

The Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society met Feb. 6, 1850, at 11, A.M. at their room at the Masonic Temple in Boston; the President in the Chair.

The reading of the records was postponed, in order to enable Dr. A. L. Peirson to lay before the Counsellors a letter from Dr. D. A. Grosvenor, of North Reading, requesting to be relieved from paying a part of a note of forty dollars, due from him to the Society.

On motion of Dr. Peirson, it was voted that 33 per cent of note be deducted, provided Dr. Grosvenor has paid up, or shall pay up, all dues that have been incurred since said note was given.

The records of the previous meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported, that the following persons had joined the Society since the last meeting of the Society : —

Richard Irwin	South Boston.
James M. Sharkey	Boston.
Benjamin D. Bartlett	Lowell.
Ralph K. Jones	Tisbury.
Chauncy Booth, jun. . . .	Somerville.
Henry S. Babbitt	Lowell.
Jonah Franklin Dyer	Boston.
William Otis Johnson	Lynn.
J. Edward Bower	Ipswich.
Samuel Shaw	Wareham.
William H. Thorndike	East Boston.
Joseph O. West	Lowell.
Charles Israel Putnam	Somerville.

The nominations of Mr. Hayes and Dr. Blanding were taken up, and both were elected honorary members of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Dr. Reynolds, from the Committee on districting the State, requested further time. — *Granted.*

Dr. Putnam read a communication from Dr. H. J. Bigelow, Chairman of a Committee of the Suffolk District Medical Society, and enclosing the following vote, passed by said District Society : —

“ Voted to recommit the matter to the same Committee, with instructions to consult the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and to obtain their opinion of the powers possessed by a District Society to establish a fee-bill, and regulate matters of medical police.”

On motion of Dr. Putnam, it was voted that the subject be referred to a Committee of five.

The Committee consisted of the following : Drs. Putnam, Bowditch, and H. J. Bigelow, of Boston ; Dr. A. Hooker, Cambridge ; and Dr. Bemis, Charlestown.

The Committee on resignations made the following report,

viz. that the following Fellows be allowed to become retired members, for the various reasons assigned by them, viz.: Drs. Alexander Read, of New Bedford; Samuel Smith, of Williamstown; Atherton Clark, of Easthampton; Chandler Flagg, of Marblehead, — having reached the age of sixty years, and having paid their dues; Dr. Francis W. Fisher, having removed from the State, and Ward Nicholas Boylston, Princeton, who has relinquished practice; but that the request of Dr. Jesse Chickering to become a retired member, merely for the reason that he has removed from the city of Boston, be not granted. (Signed) A. A. GOULD.

The report was accepted.

Dr. Bigelow, from the Committee appointed to nominate delegates to the American Medical Association, reported —

Barnstable County. — Elisha W. Carpenter, Chatham; Aaron Cornish, Falmouth.

Berkshire. — Henry H. Child, Pittsfield; Royal Fowler, Stockbridge; Selden Jennings, Richmond.

Bristol County. — Andrew Mackie, New Bedford; Foster Hooper, Fall River; Lyman Bartlett, Paul Spooner, and William C. Whittredge, New Bedford.

Essex County. — George Choate, Salem; George Coggs-well, Bradford; Benjamin Cox, jun. Salem; Samuel Johnson, Salem; Rufus Longley, Haverhill; A. L. Peirson, Salem; H. C. Perkins, Newburyport; Richard S. Spofford, Newburyport; Jeremiah Spofford, Bradford; Augustus Torrey, Beverly; Joseph Farnum, Salem; Henry Wheatland, Salem.

Franklin County. — Stephen W. Williams, Deerfield; Alpheus S. Stone, Greenfield.

Hampden County. — James M. Smith, Springfield; David Bemis, Chicopee; Harrison Gray, Springfield; Alfred Lambert, Springfield.

Hampshire. — Benjamin Barrett and Edward E. Denniston, Northampton.

Middlesex County. — Horatio Adams, Waltham; Josiah

Bartlett, Concord; Luther V. Bell, Somerville; Jonathan W. Bemis, Charlestown; Nehemiah Cutter, Pepperell; John C. Dalton, John C. Green, and J. W. Graves, Lowell; Anson Hooker, East Cambridge; Alfred Hitchcock, Ashby; Hiram Hosmer, Watertown; Zadoc Howe, Billerica; Elisha Huntington, Lowell; J. S. Hurd, Charlestown; Gilman Kimball, Lowell; Abraham R. Thompson, Charlestown; Timothy Wellington, West Cambridge; Simon Whitney, Framingham; Morrill Wyman, Cambridge; Benjamin Cutler, Woburn.

Nantucket County. — Elisha P. Fearing, Nantucket.

Norfolk County. — Henry Bartlett, Roxbury; Nathaniel Miller, Franklin; E. D. Miller and Edward Jarvis, Dorchester; Christopher C. Holmes, Milton; Ebenezer Alden, Randolph; Jeremy Stimpson, Dedham; Ebenezer Woodward, Quincy; B. E. Cotting, Roxbury; W. P. Dexter, Brookline.

Plymouth County. — Paul L. Nichols, Kingston; Winslow Warren, Plymouth.

Suffolk County. — Z. B. Adams, Henry I. Bowditch, Henry G. Clarke, J. D. Fisher, John Flint, Charles Gordon, Augustus A. Gould, James B. Gregerson, John C. Hayden, George Hayward, John Homans, H. B. Inches, James Jackson, J. B. S. Jackson, John Jeffries, Winslow Lewis, Samuel Morrill, Samuel Parkman, M. S. Perry, Charles G. Putnam, Edward Reynolds, George C. Shattuck, jun., J. V. C. Smith, D. H. Storer, John Ware, Charles E. Ware, J. C. Warren, J. Mason Warren, and S. D. Townsend, Boston.

Worcester County. — Edward Flint, Leominster; Joseph Sargent, Worcester; D. S. C. H. Smith, Sutton; Charles W. Wilder, Leominster.

The report was accepted; and, on motion of Dr. Bigelow, it was voted that the Secretary be directed to send a circular to those nominated, requesting them to inform him whether or not they would accept, and that the President be allowed to fill all vacancies in the list.

The President nominated Drs. Anson Hooker and S. Cabot to audit the Treasurer's account ; also Drs. G. H. Lyman and Buckminster Brown to examine the Library.

On motion of Dr. Bowditch, it was voted to appoint a Committee of five to make arrangements for the annual dinner.

Drs. William J. Dale, H. J. Bigelow, W. W. Morland, C. E. Buckingham, of Boston, and J. W. Bemis, of Charlestown, composed that Committee.

On motion, it was voted to refer Dr. Root's letter, relative to Essex North District, to the Committee on districting the State.

Dr. Bigelow stated that he had received a communication from the Chairman of the Committee on Education, of Massachusetts, respecting his opinion upon the request made by the Medical Institution (Thompsonian) of Worcester to be allowed to grant medical degrees.

Dr. Gardner moved that a Committee of five be appointed from the Counsellors to oppose this application, before the Committee of the Legislature.

Pending the discussion on this proposition, Dr. Carpenter remarked that he thought a remonstrance should be forthwith sent to the Legislature.

Whereupon, Dr. Bigelow proposed, for the adoption of the Counsellors, a remonstrance which he prepared.

This was accepted by the Counsellors, signed by the President, and sent to the State House.

Dr. Gardner's motion was then adopted ; and Drs. Bigelow, Gardner, Hitchcock, Peirson, and Dalton were chosen a Committee to carry said vote into effect.

Dr. Hayward reported that the Legislature had partially acted upon the petition of the Society for a change in its Constitution, and for permission to use the permanent fund. The House of Representatives had unanimously reported a Bill granting the request, and the Senate had it now under consideration ; and it would doubtless become a law in a few days.

Dr. Bigelow moved the following amendment to the thirty-ninth By-Law, viz. the insertion of the following words after the word *Fellow* in the second line, — “at the annual meeting; also an important amendment in the reports of the Counsellors to the Society.” — *Voted*.

Dr. Fisher presented the following vote, passed by the Board of Censors, viz. “That the Secretary be directed to make application to the Counsellors, at their next stated meeting, for advice with respect to the diplomas which may from time to time be presented to the Board of Censors from the Castleton Medical College and from Foreign Universities.”

On motion of Dr. Carpenter, it was referred to a Committee of three.

The following gentlemen composed that Committee: Dr. Hayward, Dr. Z. B. Adams, Dr. Peirson.

Dr. Carpenter made a verbal report relative to Dr. Folsom, and asked for further time. — *Granted*.

Dr. S. C. Arnold, of Providence, R. I. was nominated as honorary member of the Society by Drs. Bigelow, Gardner, and Fisher.

The President stated that the Suffolk District Medical Society had held its meetings in the Counsellors' room, without due authority. He suggested that leave be granted to that effect.

On motion of Dr. Bigelow, it was voted that the Suffolk District Medical Society be allowed to use the Counsellors' room at any time when it is not required by the Counsellors for their own use, at such a rent as the President and Treasurer shall deem just; said Society paying all contingent expenses.

Dr. Carpenter moved the following votes: —

Resolved, That all homœopathic practitioners are, or should be, denominated irregular practitioners, and, according to the By-Laws of this Society made and provided, ought to be expelled from membership.

Resolved, That Ira Barrows, of Norton, now a member of

this Society, ought to be, and by a vote of this Society is, expelled from membership, for the following reasons :

1. For being guilty of dishonorable conduct ;
2. For being the maker and vender, at sundry different times, of certain and several quack medicines ;
3. For being an irregular practitioner, having adopted the homœopathic or infinitesimal or loaf-sugar system.

On motion of Dr. Bigelow, the first resolve was laid upon the table ; and, on motion of Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, the resolves relative to Dr. Barrows were referred to a Committee of three.

The Committee consisted of Drs. Caleb Swan, of Easton ; Randall, of Rehoboth ; and Phelps, of Attleborough.

The Recording Secretary stated that he had received official notice of the formation of the Bristol District Medical Society, and of the Suffolk District Medical Society.

Voted, To dissolve the meeting.

HENRY I. BOWDITCH, *Rec. Secretary.*

MAY 30, 1850.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors of the Massachusetts Medical Society was held May 30, 1850, at 10, A.M. at the Masonic Temple.

The records of the preceding meeting were read.

The Corresponding Secretary reported the names of the following persons who have joined the Society : —

Darius A. Dow	.	.	.	Shirley Village.
Edwin Leigh	.	.	.	Boston.
Franklin F. Patch	.	.	.	"
Charles N. Germaine	.	.	.	"
Jabez Fisher	.	.	.	Cambridgeport.
Benjamin S. Codman	.	.	.	Boston.
John L. Colby	.	.	.	Manchester.

Hervey E. Weston	.	.	Boston.
Thomas S. Wright	.	.	"
E. Lewis Warren	.	.	West Needham.
Ambrose Gould	.	.	Lowell.
Moses R. Greeley	.	.	Charlestown.
Elisha B. Shapleigh	.	.	Lowell.
Charles F. Trafton	.	.	Boston.
Samuel R. Philbrick	.	.	"
David Dana	.	.	Lawrence.
Stephen Huse	.	.	Methuen.
Marcus B. Leonard	.	.	East Boston.
John Howell Mackie	.	.	Nantucket.
James A. Tilton	.	.	Amesbury.
Joseph D. Mitchell	.	.	St. Stephens, N.B.

Dr. Jacob Bigelow reported verbally for the Committee on publications.

Voted, To proceed to the choice of officers. Drs. Gordon and Creary were appointed Scrutineers.

The Secretary stated that he had been requested by the Chairman of the Committee on districting the State to request further time. — *Granted*.

On motion of Dr. George Hayward, the President and Recording Secretary were added to the Committee.

Dr. Homans moved that one be added from each county, not represented on the Committee. — *Voted*.

The Treasurer made his report. — *Accepted*.

A letter from Dr. Ford, of Hyannis, was referred to the Committee on resignations.

Dr. Putnam presented a report on the subject of the right of District Societies to establish fee-bills, and concluding with the following, — "that the establishment of a fee-bill by the Suffolk District Medical Society is not supported by the laws." — *Accepted*.

Dr. Hayward reported "with reference to diplomas received from Castleton Medical College and from Foreign Universities," and recommended, in behalf of the Committee,

that, in all cases hereafter in which persons not having a diploma from an institution in this State "apply for admission to the Society, the Censors should satisfy themselves by examining such applicants, that they have pursued a course of study fully equal to that prescribed by this Society, and complied with all its requirements in relation to admission; and that without such examination they should not be admitted to Fellowship." — *Accepted.*

On motion of Dr. Hayward, it was voted that an abstract of the report be sent to each Censorial Board in the State.

Dr. Carpenter reported verbally on the matter of Dr. Folsom, and stated that the Committee could not procure any data upon which to act, and asked that the Committee might be discharged.

Dr. Spooner read a letter from Dr. Folsom.

On motion of Dr. Gordon, of Boston, the subject was referred back to the same Committee, who should be authorized to procure certified copies of any documents that may be in the hands of the Dean of the Medical Faculty of Harvard University, and of the Treasurer of the New Bedford Medical Association, that refer to the subject.

The report of the Committee on the subject of complaints, made against Dr. Barrows, was read.

Dr. Gordon moved that the various charges be taken up and voted upon *seriatim*. — Voted.

Dr. Storer moved that the Counsellors propose to the Society the expulsion of Dr. Barrows on the ground of "gross immorality," in having broken his solemn pledge given to Dr. Carpenter.

Dr. Carpenter acted as accuser, and Dr. Barrows (present by invitation of the Committee) defended himself.

Dr. Storer's motion was then passed, *nem. con.*

The following resolve, passed by the Society, was referred to a Committee to report at the next Counsellors' meeting.

Resolved, That the complaints preferred by the Barnstable District Medical Society, with the documents relating thereto, be referred to the Counsellors with a view to an investiga-

tion of the facts of the case, and with the request that an opinion be given upon the conduct of Dr. H. J. Bigelow and the Barnstable District Medical Society.

The following composed that Committee : Drs. James Jackson, A. A. Gould, Luther V. Bell.

The communication from the Southern District, relative to trials for mal-practice, was *referred to a Committee* of three, under the following vote offered by Dr. Creary : —

Whereas prosecutions for mal-practice have of late become alarmingly frequent, so much so as to demand some decided action for our own and the protection of our brethren. Therefore *Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to prepare and present to the Counsellors, at their next meeting, some plan whereby physicians or surgeons who may be prosecuted for mal-practice shall be more fully protected than they are by our present jury-trial system.

The following composed the Committee : Dr. Creary, of Fall River ; Dr. Hooper, of Fall River ; Dr. Peirson, of Salem.

Dr. Jeffries presented a memorial from the Suffolk District Medical Society, relative to certain members of the Society who had violated the laws. Referred to a Committee of three, viz. Drs. Jeffries, C. E. Buckingham, J. C. Dalton, with full powers to investigate and report "some mode of action on the cases of infraction of the laws, presented by the Suffolk District Medical Society, at the next meeting of the Counsellors."

Dr. Peirson presented a letter from Dr. Colby, of Salem, asking leave to retire from the Society, on the ground of his having become a homœopathist.

Dr. Peirson moved that the documents be referred to a Committee of three, whose duty it should be to devise some course of action to be pursued by the Society in regard to all homœopathists, and report at the next meeting.

Drs. Hayward, O. W. Holmes, and J. B. S. Jackson, composed the Committee.

On motion of Dr. Gordon, it was voted to add two more to the Committee on the memorial from the Southern District.

Drs. Gordon and Putnam were added to the Committee.

Dr. Adams, of Boston, moved that the Committee on publications be requested to publish forthwith the Revised By-Laws. — *Voted.*

Dr. Bowditch moved that they be directed to publish annually a list of all the Fellows of the Society, and likewise the names of all Counsellors present at each meeting. — *Voted.*

The Scrutineers reported, at various times during the meeting, the following as the Officers of the Society for the ensuing year : Dr. John Ware, President ; Dr. Andrew Mackie, Vice-President ; Dr. Charles G. Putnam, Corresponding Secretary ; Dr. Henry I. Bowditch, Recording Secretary ; Dr. Abraham A. Watson, Librarian ; Dr. Augustus A. Gould, Treasurer.

Censors for the First Medical District and for the Society at large : Drs. George W. Otis, Alexander Thomas, J. B. S. Jackson, Samuel Morrill, John Flint.

Censors for the Second Medical District : Drs. Heywood, Wm. Workman, Benj. Pond, J. Sargent, and J. G. Metcalf.

Censors for the Third Medical District : Drs. D. Bemis, S. D. Brooks, D. Thompson, E. G. Ufford, James Deane.

Censors for the Fourth Medical District : Drs. H. H. Childs, A. G. Welch, Robert Worthington, N. S. Babbitt, Corydon Guiteau.

Censors for the Fifth Medical District : Drs. Julius S. Mayhew, Henry Willard, John Perkins, Elijah Colby, Perez F. Doggett.

Censors for Sixth Medical District : Drs. Aaron Cornish, E. W. Carpenter, T. P. Jackson, J. Leonard, G. Atwood.

Committee on Publications : Drs. Jeffries, Charles E. Ware, S. Parkman.

Committee on Resignations : Drs. Geo. W. Otis, A. A. Gould, D. H. Storer.

Dr. D. H. Storer was chosen to deliver the next Annual Address.

Dr. S. A. Arnold was chosen an honorary member of the Society.

Voted, That the Committee on resignations be authorized to direct such measures, legal or otherwise, for collecting arrearages, as they may deem necessary; and that they have power to adjust the accounts of individuals, as their several cases may seem to demand.

The meeting was then dissolved.

HENRY I. BOWDITCH, *Rec. Secretary.*

Officers of the Massachusetts Medical Society,

CHOSEN MAY 30, 1850.

JOHN WARE	PRESIDENT.
ANDREW MACKIE	VICE-PRESIDENT.
CHARLES G. PUTNAM	COR. SECRETARY.
HENRY I. BOWDITCH	REC. SECRETARY.
ABRAHAM A. WATSON	LIBRARIAN.
AUGUSTUS A. GOULD	TREASURER.

CENSORS.

For the First Medical District, and the Society at Large. — Geo. W. Otis, Alexander Thomas, J. B. S. Jackson, Samuel Morrill, John Flint.

For the Second Medical District. — B. F. Heywood, Wm. Workman, Benjamin Pond, J. Sargent, J. G. Metcalf.

For the Third Medical District. — D. Bemis, J. D. Brooks, D. Thompson, E. G. Ufford, James Deane.

For the Fourth Medical District. — H. H. Childs, A. G. Welch, Robt. Worthington, N. S. Babbitt, Corydon Guiteau.

For the Fifth Medical District. — Julius S. Mayhew, Henry Willard, John Perkins, Elijah Colby, Perez F. Doggett.

For the Sixth Medical District. — Aaron Cornish, E. W. Carpenter, T. P. Jackson, J. Leonard, G. Atwood.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.

J. Jeffries, Charles E. Ware, S. Parkman.

COMMITTEE ON RESIGNATIONS.

George W. Otis, A. A. Gould, D. H. Storer.

Dr. D. H. Storer was chosen to deliver the next Annual Address.

Officers of District Medical Societies.

The following list of the officers of the various District Societies has been made out from the only documents upon the subject that have reached the Secretary: —

BARNSTABLE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — E. W. Carpenter, *President*; Jonathan Leonard, *Vice-President*; S. H. Gould, *Secretary*; George Shove, *Treasurer and Librarian*.

BRISTOL DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — Johnson Gardner, *President*; Joseph H. Hatch, *Vice-President*; Thaddeus Phelps, *Secretary and Treasurer*; Phineas Savery and James B. Dean, *Librarians*.

ESSEX NORTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — H. C. Perkins, *President*; J. Appleton, *Vice-President*; M. Root, *Secretary*; J. Spofford, *Treasurer and Librarian*.

ESSEX SOUTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — A. L. Peirson, *President*; George Choate, *Vice-President*; Edward B. Peirson, *Librarian*; Joseph Farnum, *Treasurer*; Wm. H. Prince, *Secretary*.

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — Jesse W. Rice, *President*; Alfred Lambert, *Treasurer and Librarian*.

HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — Hervey Orcutt, *President*; S. D. Brooks, *Vice-President*; Horatio Thompson, *Secretary*.

MIDDLESEX DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — John C. Dalton, *President*; J. C. Bartlett, *Vice-President*; A. H. Brown, *Secretary*; L. B. Morse, *Treasurer and Librarian*; E. Huntington, N. Cutter, J. P. Jewett, *Standing Committee*.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — Foster Hooper, *President*; B. B. Sisson, *First Vice-President*; Julius S. Mayhew, *Second Vice-President*; Elijah Colby, *Secretary*; William A. Gorham, *Treasurer and Librarian*.

SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — John Jeffries, *President*; Samuel Cabot, jun. *Vice-President*; Charles Gordon, *Treasurer*; William E. Coale, *Librarian*; E. W. Blake, *Secretary*; Z. B. Adams and N. B. Shurtleff, *Committee of Supervision*.

WORCESTER DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY. — John G. Metcalf, *President*; Benjamin Pond, *Vice-President*; William D. Peck, *Secretary*; Benjamin F. Heywood, *Treasurer and Librarian*; William Workman, B. F. Heywood, J. G. Metcalf, *Committee on the Waldo Fund*.

No returns from BERKSHIRE.